

# **Cass County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Plan**

**July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2018**

**Prepared By:** Joan Friedman  
Program Director  
Cass Nebraska Crime Commission Grant  
346 Main Street  
Plattsmouth, NE. 68048

**Chair of Team:** Joan Friedman  
Cass Nebraska Crime Commission Program Director  
346 Main Street, Plattsmouth, NE 68048  
nosmokejoan@hotmail.com

**Council/ Board Chair:** Janet McCarthy  
Chairman, Cass County Commissioner  
346 Main Street, Plattsmouth, NE 68048 dist2comm@cassne.org

**Community Team**

The community team for Cass County consists of the members of the LB 1184

Treatment Team. The team members are representatives from various agencies and other components of the county that deal with juvenile issues. These include the various county school districts, doctors, medical students, nurses, and other medical professionals from local clinics and doctor’s offices, law enforcement officers from the Cass County Sheriff’s Department and the Plattsmouth Police Department, probation officers, Nebraska HHSS Protection and Safety Workers, Office of Juvenile Services workers, domestic violence victim’s advocates, and members of the Cass County Attorney’s Office, including the Cass County Attorney and one Deputy Cass County Attorney along with Cass County CASA.

The Community Team has met since County Attorney Nathan B. Cox took office as the Cass County Attorney in 2000. Previous to that time meetings were held but there is no information on the frequency or format of the meetings. Meetings are currently held on the third Monday of each month and are directed by Nathan Cox. He is responsible for the statutory requirements of the meetings.

Last Name	First Name	Company	Job Title	Town	Zip Code	Phone Number	Email	Address
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Allen,	Linda	Louisville Elementary	Guidance Counselor	Louisville	68037	234-4215	LAllen@esu3.org
Bickford	Dawn	Weeping Water Schools	Guidance Counselor	Weeping Water	68463	267-2445	dbickford@esu3.org
Cox	Nathan	Cass Co Atty	County Attorney	Plattsmouth	68048	296-9346	nathanc@cassne.org
Durkan	Doug	Cass County Sheriff's Office	Investigator	Plattsmouth	68048	296-9370	douglasd@co.cass.ne.us
Fitzpatrick	Bill	Plattsmouth Schools	School Social Worker	Plattsmouth	68048	296-3174	bfitzpatrick@pcsd.org
Friederich	Bruce	E/M Elem School	Principal	Elmwood	68349	994-2125	bfriedrich@esu3.org
Garrison	Trisha	Children's Physicians	Physician	Plattsmouth	68048	955-7150	tgarrison@childrensomaha.org
Gegg	Brian	Weeping Water School	Superintendent	Weeping Water	68463	267-2445	bgegg@esu3.org
Graeve	Deb	Plattsmouth High School	Assistant Principal	Plattsmouth	68048	296-3322	dgraeve@pcsd.org
Holl	Cory	Louisville Public Schools	Principal	Louisville	68037	234-3585	choll@esu3.org
Isacson	Linda	St. John's School	Principal	Plattsmouth	68048	296-6230	lindai@stjohnplt.org
Kennan	Andrew	Plattsmouth Police Dept	Investigator	Plattsmouth	68048	296-3311	akennan@plattsmouth.org
Kufka	Tiffany	Weeping Water Public Schools		Weeping Water	68463	267-2445	tferguson@esu3.org
Lahm	Brad	Sheriff's Office		Plattsmouth	68048	296-9370	brad@co.cass.ne.us
Lamprecht	Dave	Sheriff's Office		Plattsmouth	68048	296-9370	dave@co.cass.ne.us
Leffler	Deb	Conestoga School	Guidance Counselor	Murray	68409	235-2341	dleffler@esu3.org
Love	Shari	Plattsmouth Head Start	Teacher	Plattsmouth	68048	296-2965	slove@pcsd.org

Martin	Dawn elle	Conestoga Public Schools	School Nurse	Murray	68409	235-2341	dmartin5@esu3.org
Mathew	Judy	UNMC		Plattsmouth	68048	296-6009	jrmathew@unmc.edu

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Company</b>	<b>Job Title</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>Zip Code</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
Mines	Keryl	Plattsmouth Schools	School Social Worker	Plattsmouth	68048	296-4173	kmines@pcsd.org
Morris	Kim	Children's Physicians	CMA	Plattsmouth	68048	955-7150	klmorris@childrensomaha.org
Murdoch	Dave	Plattsmouth P.D.	Police	Plattsmouth	68048	296-9370	dmurdoch@plattsmouth.org
Neumiller	Angie	Cass County CASA	CASA Director	Plattsmouth	68048	296-9520	aneumiller@casscasa.org
Novak	Dan	Elmwood-Murdoch H.S.	Superintendent	Murdock	68407	867-2341	dnovak@esu3.org
Palser	Stephanie	State of Nebraska	Probation Officer	Plattsmouth	68048	296-9363	stephanie.palser@nebraska.gov
Petersen	Eva	Cass County Sheriff's Office	Investigator	Plattsmouth	68048	296-9370	evas@co.cass.ne.us
Roach	Judy	Louisville H.S.	Guidance Counselor	Louisville	68037	234-3585	jroach@esu3.org
Ross	Tom	DHHS	Supervisor	Nebraska City	68410	326-9079	Tom.Ross@nebraska.gov
Scott	Tina	UNMC Plattsmouth	Nurse	Plattsmouth	68048	955-7150	tscott@unmc.edu
Siemonsma	Jenny	UNMC	RN	Plattsmouth	68048	296-6009	lwilwerd@unmc.edu
Snyder	Sheilah	Med Center	Physician	Plattsmouth	68048	296-6009	sjsnyder@unmc.edu
Todd	Stefanie	Plattsmouth Early Childhood Ctr	Health Aide	Plattsmouth	68048		stodd@pcsd.org
Urton	Kelly	Conestoga School	Guidance Counselor	Murray	68409	235-2271	kurton@esu3.org
Wetenkamp	Becky	Plattsmouth Middle School	Nurse	Plattsmouth	68048	296-3174	bwetenkamp@pcsd.org
Wilwerding M.D.	Laura	UNMC Plattsmouth	Physician	Plattsmouth	68048	955-7150	lwilwerd@unmc.edu
Zimmerer	Melinda	Plattsmouth Head Start	Teacher	Plattsmouth	68048	296-2965	mzimmerer@pcsd.org

## **Community Socio-Economic Factors**

Nestled halfway between Omaha and Lincoln and the grassy banks of two mighty and historic rivers, Cass County is one of the earliest settled counties in Nebraska, whose population continues to grow. The county measures approximately 34 miles East to West and 20 miles North to South and has a population of over 25,000. Cass County is comprised of the fifteen towns mentioned above. Cass County has a total of 17 public schools, six high schools, three middle schools and eight elementary schools. Cass County is largely agricultural; however there are a number of manufacturing sites in the county such as Ash Grove Cement, Ox Bow Pet Products, Stock Seed, and Martin Marietta Aggregates.

Plattsmouth is the county seat and serves as a bedroom community for the city of Omaha. Located on the Missouri River at the mouth of the Platte River, Plattsmouth is served by U.S. Highways 34 and 75 and State Highway 66. Only three miles west of Interstate 29 and 18 miles south of Interstate 80, this growing community is conveniently located approximately 20 miles south of Omaha and 50 miles northeast of the State Capitol in Lincoln. Plattsmouth is a city of beautiful parks, historical landmarks, and museums. The Plattsmouth Main Street Historic District includes 45 buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places, including the Cass County Courthouse, built in 1892.

### Snapshot of Demographics (Cass County & State)

	<b>Cass County</b>	<b>Nebraska</b>
Population, 2010	25,241	1,826,341
Population, percent change, 2000 to 2010	3.7%	6.7%
Persons under 5 years, percent, 2010	6.3%	7.2%
Persons under 18 years, percent, 2010	25.3%	25.1%
High school graduates, percent of persons age 25+, 2005-2009	93.1%	89.7%
Persons below poverty level, percent, 2009	7.1%	12.2%

Citation: US Census Bureau website, Cass County NE snapshot

## **IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIES**

### **ORGANIZATIONAL PRIORITY AREAS**

#### **Priority 1**

**Our community needs to distribute responsibility for youth across Cass County.**

### **MOBILIZATIONAL PRIORITY AREAS**

#### **Priority 1**

##### **Abused and Neglected Children**

The first identified priority for this plan is child abuse and neglect that leads to children of all ages becoming victims, and often needing immediate, safe out-of-home placements. More specifically, the problems addressed in this priority are two-fold: 1) The need for legal advocacy for abused and neglected children who are under the court's jurisdiction in out-of-home placements, and 2) Prevention of the following: lingering in foster care longer than necessary; future abuse, and; re-entry into the court or foster care system, all of which contribute to a myriad of negative outcomes. When taken from their homes, abused and/or neglected children are thrown into a complicated and confusing child welfare system with many different adults making decisions regarding their welfare. A child in foster care is at one of the most vulnerable points in his/her young life. But there are few effective safeguards to assure that a child's rights are protected. Achieving safety, permanency, and ensuring the best interests of the child in the most effective, time-efficient manner is the ideal goal for any child in foster care.

There is an added element of need for advocacy in recent years, in regards to continuity and consistency of those involved in foster children's lives, since the privatization of services took place and outside agencies were contracted with DHHS to provide foster care services. Unfortunately there have been many bumps in the road during this transition and it's the children who suffer in these circumstances. The district attorney in Cass County has seen caseworkers change as often as every 3-4 months, providing very little ability for one person to really get to know each child/family and coordinate needed services. The need for consistency and advocacy is greater than ever for children in foster care. At the time of this writing, DHHS announced that the current child placing agency will no longer be utilized and that on March 1, 2012, DHHS will resume case management for part of the eastern region including Cass County. Children will be going through another major upheaval process in provision of services.

According to Voices for Children Nebraska, among all states, Nebraska's rate of children in out-of-home care is the highest at 13.9 compared with 6.8 for the nation. Overall, the number has slowly decreased in recent years, as shown in the table below (figures taken from Kids Count annual reports):

	<b># Children in Out-of-Home Care</b>	<b>Percent Change Decrease</b>
<b>2007</b>	9,623	12.3% (from 2006)

<b>2008</b>	9,235	4%
<b>2009</b>	8,677	6%

Children may enter foster care for a variety of reasons. Neglect is the most frequently recorded cause for removal of children from the home of their parent(s) or guardian(s). Neglect has several forms that range from outright abandonment to inadequate parenting skills which affect child well-being. Parental drug abuse is the second most prevalent cause of placement followed by parental alcohol abuse and substandard or unsafe housing. Often, the cause of removal from the home is not just one dimensional, but many contributing factors may collude and lead to abuse/neglect.

There is a large body of international evidence that shows that prevention and early intervention can be a powerful instrument for generating improved outcomes for individuals, populations and the environment in which we live. Statistics published by Child Help, a national child abuse organization, state that children who experience child abuse & neglect are 59% more likely to be arrested as a juvenile, 28% more likely to be arrested as an adult, and 30% more likely to commit violent crime (as compared to children who have not been abused). Therefore, child abuse and lack of early intervention is linked to an increase in future delinquent behavior. Early intervention, provision of needed services, and placement in a safe, loving, permanent home is critical. The annual report from the Voices for Children Nebraska Kids Count project stated that “Family problems including child abuse, domestic violence, poverty, mental health issues and self-esteem can all be factors that influence a juvenile’s behavior. We must create systems of support which reduce the number of children entering the juvenile system and develop policies and programs to ensure that once a youth has entered the system, he or she has quality resources available, such as adequate mental health treatment and educational experiences that will greatly improve the odds of success for that youth ([www.voicesforchildren.com](http://www.voicesforchildren.com)).”

Local data on the number of substantiated cases of child abuse/neglect is reported by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in their annual reports. Keep in mind that one report typically involves more than one child, so the number of individual children having reported abuse is usually higher, as are the number of individual children involved in substantiated reports. Here are the numbers specific to Cass County:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Reports of CA/N</b>	<b>Percent Increase in Reports</b>	<b>Substantiated Reports</b>	<b># Children in out-of-home placement due ONLY to CA/N</b>
<b>2008</b>	152		35	58
<b>2009</b>	223	47%	39	68
<b>2010</b>	288	29%	27	43

Sources: [http://dhhs.ne.gov/children\\_family\\_services/Pages/jus\\_reports.aspx](http://dhhs.ne.gov/children_family_services/Pages/jus_reports.aspx) and personal conversation with Lori Koenig, Business Analyst with DHHS, on 12/9/11

The Nebraska Foster Care Review Board, in their 2009 annual report, states that “... 42.9% of the 3,430 children reviewed during 2009 had been in out-of-home care for at least two years of their life, and 334 of those children had been in out-of-home care for over five years (<http://www.fcrb.state.ne.us/pdf/publications/annualreport/2009annualrpt/2009%20annual%20report.pdf>). They also report that “the child welfare system can and does work well for approximately half of the children in the system, assisting children and their families in resolving problems and providing



children the security and permanency to which they are entitled. The remaining children within the system do not fare as well.” The median length of stay for children in foster care in Cass County is 11 months, compared to the state average of 12 months. Children who have a CASA volunteer average 4 less months in foster care.

According to the annual report statistics from DHHS, in terms of age of the children involved in child abuse/neglect (CA/N) cases, the percentage of substantiated reports goes down as the age goes up. So, younger children have more cases of substantiated abuse, following well documented national trends. This makes the need for effective legal advocacy even greater as younger children are less able to speak for themselves or have a way of knowing what is in their own best interests. Research shows that intervention at the earliest possible age is important in preventing even more damage such as repeated abuse, delinquent behaviors, and intangible measures such as decreases in self-esteem and feeling of worthiness. The earlier abused children get help, the greater chance they have to heal from their abuse and not perpetuate the cycle.

The issue of truancy is also affecting the number of children coming into care (especially age 10-17). Nebraska's approach to truancy has increased costs and pressures on prosecutors, juvenile courts and child welfare providers. According to a recent article in the Omaha World Herald more truancy cases have meant more children becoming state wards. Children can wind up in the system if they are charged with being truant, a status offense, or if their parents are charged with educational neglect. Statewide numbers on truancy cases in the child welfare system are unavailable. But KVC, the state's private child welfare contractor serving southeast Nebraska, saw its truancy cases quadruple from the summer of 2010 to this summer. Cases averaged eight per week this year, compared with two per week previously. Sandra Gasca-Gonzalez, president of KVC's Nebraska operations, said she was surprised at the numbers. In other states where she has worked, truancy is an issue handled by schools, not the juvenile court system, she said.

**Priority 1: Abused and Neglected Children**

Strategy	Action Steps	Timelines	Responsible Parties	Resources Needed	Evidence-Based Practice
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1) Recruit, screen, train (pre-service & continuing education) & supervise volunteers	<p>Recruit 8 to 10 volunteers through speaking engagements and social media</p> <p>Train 5-8 new volunteers and 10 current volunteers on 12 or more hours of continuing education.</p>	<p>July 2014 - June 2015</p> <p>Recruiting done throughout the year</p> <p>Training twice a year for new volunteers</p> <p>Quarterly training for current volunteers</p>	<p>Executive Director &amp; Board of Directors</p> <p>Volunteers</p>	<p>Staff</p> <p>Funds</p> <p>Training supplies and curriculum</p> <p>Marketing materials</p>	<p><b>Outcomes:</b> Is this program being evaluated? Explain evaluation and outcome data that establishes this as an effective program.</p> <p>From July 1, 2012 through December 31, 2013, 43 children were served by our CASA program. Out of the 43 children, 18 of these children were ages 12-18 (41.8%). During this timeframe, out of the 18 children: <u>ten</u> were reunified with one or more parent; <b>one</b> aged out of system; <u>one</u> with kin guardianship; and <u>six</u> out of home placements.</p> <p>* Program participates in a self-assessment process, which measures their compliance with National CASA standards, once every four years. Yes, program is being evaluated by CASA Manager software. Pertinent statistical data is input for each child and their families. Data gathered may include placements, schools and other information pertinent to the child and/or family and provides statistical reports. Nebraska CASA automatically retrieves program and report information via software and submits it to National CASA.</p> <p>Dr Harder, UNO Social Work Professor and group are in the beginning stages of evaluating CASA Programs.</p>
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## Priority 1: Abused and Neglected Children

Strategy	Action Steps	Timelines	Responsible Parties	Resources Needed	Evidence-Based Practice
2) Monitor, facilitate, advocate and investigate	<p>Visit and build a relationship with a child to understand the best interest for the child</p> <p>Communicate with child's family, teachers, therapist, foster-family and others.</p> <p>Maintain and review records to ensure appropriate services are being provided for a child</p> <p>Prepare a written report with recommendations for the court</p> <p>Stay with case until child is in a permanent placement</p> <p>Make every effort to attend all hearings, meetings and any other proceedings concerning the case</p>	<p>July 2014 - June 2015</p> <p>On-going as needed; minimum of monthly contact</p>	<p>July 2014 - June 2015</p> <p>On-going as needed; minimum of monthly contact</p>	<p>Additional staff to supervise volunteers</p> <p>Volunteer Training</p>	<p><b>Outcomes:</b> Is this program being evaluated? Yes Explain evaluation and outcome data that establishes this as an effective program.</p> <p>CASA volunteers:</p> <p>Ensure the best interest of a child is being met</p> <p>Increase collaboration between systems impacting children</p> <p>Improve safety for children</p> <p>Court receives recommendations in best interest of the child</p> <p>A child will have a consistent responsible adult presence</p>
3) Secure funding for CASA Program	<p>Research and conduct various fundraising opportunities</p> <p>Research availability of state and federal grants</p> <p>Raise community awareness of the program to increase private and corporate donation</p>	<p>July 2014 - June 2015</p> <p>On-going process throughout the year</p>	<p>Executive Director Board of Directors</p>	<p>Brochures and marketing material</p> <p>Grant writer</p> <p>Additional staff</p>	<p><b>Outcomes:</b> Is this program being evaluated? Yes Explain evaluation and outcome data that establishes this as an effective program.</p> <p>a) Increase in community support and contacts. Individuals are visiting local office to learn our needs</p> <p>b) Increase in grant funds and donations for sustainability of the program. Local donations have increased over 10%.</p>

## Priority 1: Abused and Neglected Children

Strategy	Action Steps	Timelines	Responsible Parties	Resources Needed	Evidence-Based Practice
4) Conduct surveys to measure the satisfaction of CASA programs	<p>Survey Judges, youth, foster parents and other agencies</p> <p>Input the data from the surveys and improve upon suggestions of the surveys</p>	<p>July 2014 - June 2015</p> <p>Child and caretaker questionnaire twice a year</p> <p>Collaborating agencies every two years</p>	Executive Director	<p>Surveys Questionnaires</p> <p>Additional staff to track and input data</p> <p>Agencies and other survey personnel</p>	<p><b>Outcomes:</b> Is this program being evaluated? Yes Explain evaluation and outcome data that establishes this as an effective program.</p> <p>Dr Harder, UNO Social Work Professor and group sent out surveys to gain Judges' perceptions of Nebraska CASA. Each county that has a CASA program in their jurisdiction completed a survey that was shared with the specific program.</p> <p>There is a 95% return rate on surveys given to youth, caretakers and CASA volunteers. Positive results are annotated; improvements are being made to insure youth and caretakers needs are being met.</p>
5) Use CASA Manager software	<p>Become proficient in CASA Software</p> <p>Input and update data as it occurs on a daily, weekly or monthly bases</p> <p>Monthly and quarterly reports or as needed</p>	<p>July 2014 - June 2015</p> <p>On-going as needed; daily, weekly or monthly</p>	<p>Executive Director</p> <p>CASA volunteers</p> <p>Office volunteer</p>	<p>Staff Funds CASA Manager tracking Software</p> <p>Reports from DHHS, CASA Volunteer and Guardian Ad Litem</p> <p>All records for child or family, i.e., placements of child, school, medical and therapeutic records</p>	<p><b>Outcomes:</b> Is this program being evaluated? Yes Explain evaluation and outcome data that establishes this as an effective program.</p> <p>Program utilizes CASA Manager software to capture all statistical data for each child's placements, time in program and DHHS, therapies, schools and other information pertinent to the child and/or family. All demographics of children, staff, volunteers and board members.</p> <p>Nebraska CASA and National CASA utilize this software to gain statistics from our program.</p> <p>Dr Harder, UNO Social Work Professor and group are evaluating CASA Program as evidence based program.</p>

## **Priority 2**

### **Expand and Enhance Juvenile Programming for Youth and Families involved in the court system in Cass County.**

It is imperative to expand and enhance Juvenile Programming in Cass County to maintain proper assistance and services the youth and families served by the court system.

With the passage of LB 561, Nebraska State Probation will begin supervising previously placed youth on probation, and now those youth who have previously been placed with the Department of Health and Human Services under the Office of Juvenile Services. In addition, Nebraska State Probation will have the ability to facilitate and supervise those youth on Pre-adjudication/Pre-disposition court status. Resources and services can be provided to these youth on the front-end to decrease likelihood of further proceedings in the court system. This went into effect on July 1, 2013 with the transition of current delinquency cases being supervised by the Office of Juvenile Service occurring by June 30, 2014.

With the expansion of the Nebraska State Probation, there will be additional resources, services and programming available to assist the youth and the family in the community. Nebraska State Probation will be assisting additional youth and families with new resources and services not previously provided to or by Nebraska State Program. With the increase in numbers of those being supervised under Nebraska State Probation, there will become a need for expansion and enhancements to Juvenile Programming in Cass County.

The following research reflects the risk areas identified by the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI). The YLS/CMI identifies the overall risk for recidivism a youth poses. The YLS/CMI also identifies criminogenic factors (crime producing) /risk domain areas to breakdown where to target interventions for those high to moderate risk. The information was gathered on existing youth for the past three years (2010-2012) who had a valid YLS/CMI completed. There was 118 youth with valid YLS/CMI completed while under the supervision of Nebraska State Probation or during the Pre-disposition Investigation Phase of the court process which were also administered by Nebraska State Probation.

The YLS/CMI is administered to the youth with information gathered from the family and collateral contacts. There are eight identified risk domain areas in the YLS/CMI; Prior Offenses, Family Relations, Education/Employment, Peer Relations, Substance Abuse, Leisure/Recreation, Personality/Behavior, and Attitudes/Orientations. Within these risk domain areas, the YLS/CMI identifies the individual risk level of high, moderate or low. In the research provided below, the eight risk domain areas are identified, with the percentage of risk for each risk domain area for the 118 Cass County youth with a valid YLS/CMI completed in the past three years.

**Intensive Family Preservation-** Cass County is requesting funds for Intensive Family Preservation as a service to utilize with youth and families ordered at a Detention Hearing to assist the youth in the return to the home setting to aid in the least restrictive option. With the passage of LB 464, the county is now responsible for this payment in the pre adjudicated stage.

Intensive Family Preservation services are provided by a team consisting of a licensed mental health professional and a skill builder. They provide the services in the home and/or in another setting familiar to the family. The service is designed to improve family functioning to effect behavior change to reduce the juvenile's criminogenic risk and to increase the family's access to community resources and other informal and formal supports. This family stabilization is available 24/7.

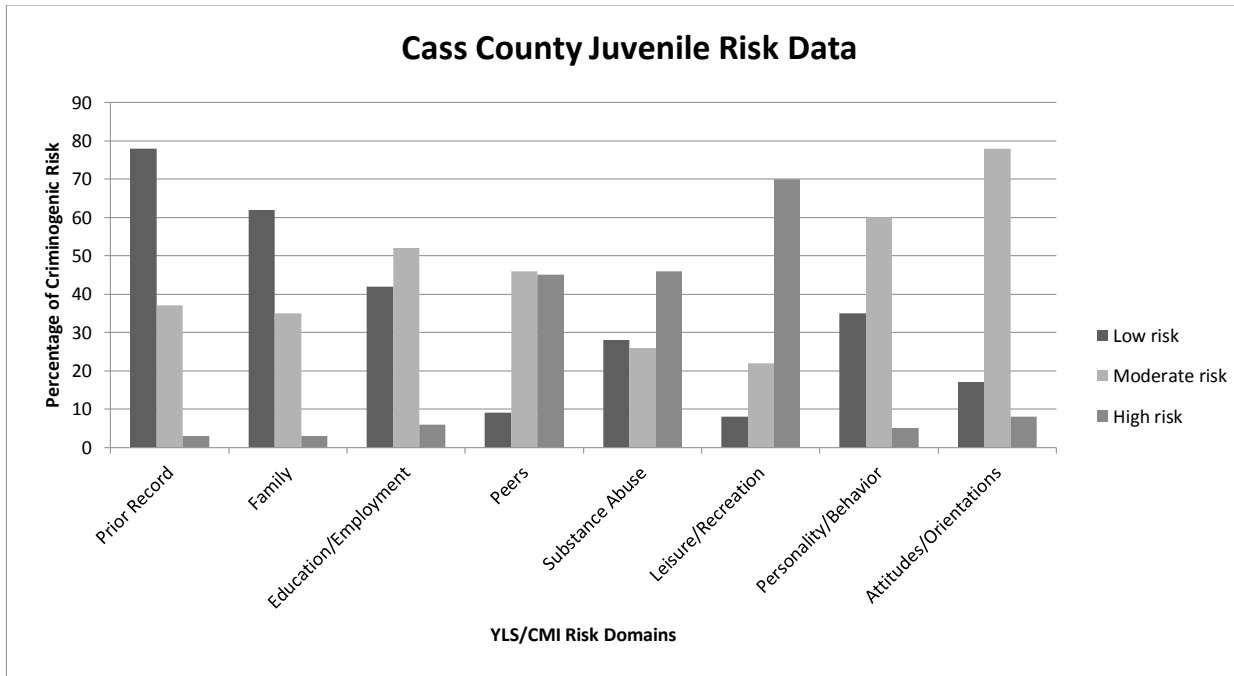
Cass County Juvenile system focus provides juveniles with the least restrictive appropriate environment, becoming incrementally more restrictive only as absolutely necessary. Therefore, alternatives/programming are needed in order to provide youth with services to divert them from detention by offering new and innovative services.

Priority Two of the Comprehensive Juvenile Services Plan states: Cass County will expand and enhance Juvenile programming for Youth and Families involved in the Court System in Cass County.

Cass County is requesting funding to implement a Family Crisis Mediation Response Team. At times, families encounter conflicts that can escalate to the point that an intervention is necessary. By implementing this program, a Family Mediation Crisis Response Team member will be called when situations arise such as children running away, physical altercations, and issues regarding parents and children respecting one another. The Mediation Team's goal is to see a decline in youth being detained or placed in a higher level of care that may not be necessary.

Through services provided by the Family Crisis Mediation Response Team; police officers and probation officers will assist the family in crisis. The project is designed to provide youth who would, in the current system, be placed under the Juvenile Court System or are currently being supervised by a juvenile agency, with services that divert them from the criminal justice or social services systems. Family Crisis Mediation Response team members will assess the nature of the crisis and provide immediate de-escalation and conflict resolution. A safety plan is developed and the family is provided additional community resources and support.

The main goal of this program is to keep the family intact with specific safety measures in place. If the mediation team member assesses that the child is too much of a risk to return home, then they will explore the options of placing the child in an unbiased home, such as a friend or family member's home for the night. If/when this option is unsuccessful it would be the probation officer's job to find immediate placement for the child.



Information provided by Nebraska State Probation District 2

The graph identifies several domain areas with a high percentage of youth in Cass County falling into the high risk and moderate risk areas. There will be an increase of those being supervised by Nebraska State Probation within the next year in need of assistance of expansion and enhancements to programming to reduce risk levels of the risk domain areas. This will decrease the overall risk of a youth and family to create additional safety to the community.

Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results
(1)Increase Juvenile Programming	a) Research evidence-based programming for Juveniles	a) Chief Probation Officer/Chief Deputy Probation Officer  b) Juvenile Justice Resource Supervisor	a)ongoing process throughout	a) Effective research of Juvenile Evidence-Based Programming  b) Resources/ costs to obtain Juvenile	a) Decrease in risk domain areas.  b) Increase Public Safety

		c) Probation Officer		Evidence-Based Programming	
2) Enhance existing Juvenile Programming	a) Review current juvenile evidence – programming being provided  b) Identify which programming is in need of additional materials/training/information	a) Chief Probation Officer/Chief Deputy Probation Officer  2) Juvenile Justice Resource Supervisor  3) Probation Officers	a) Ongoing Process	a) evaluation of the needs of the current Programming	a) decrease risk domain areas  b) increase public safety.
3) Evaluate risk areas for those youth and families	a) Review overall risk for YLS/CMI  b) Review risk domain areas	a) Chief Probation Officer/Chief Deputy Probation Officer  b) Juvenile Justice Resource Supervisor  c) Probation Officer  d) Data Analyst	a) Data analyst complete a query on the breakdown of the YLS/CMI on a yearly basis.	a) valid YLS/CMI instruments completed on all youth  b) valid YLS/CMI instruments completed on those youth transitioning from OJS  c) yearly query run on overall risk level and risk domain areas	a) decrease in risk domain areas  b) increase in public safety  c) information regarding where resources, services, and programming would be best utilized with youth and family.



### **Priority 3**

#### **Ensure adequate Office Space, Supplies for Juvenile Programming and Supervision.**

It is imperative to provide those systems providing Programming and Supervision to youth and families in the Cass County Community adequate office space, equipment, and supplies to appropriately provide juvenile programming and supervision. By matching the appropriate interventions with risk level, there needs to be increase in office space, equipment, and supplies.

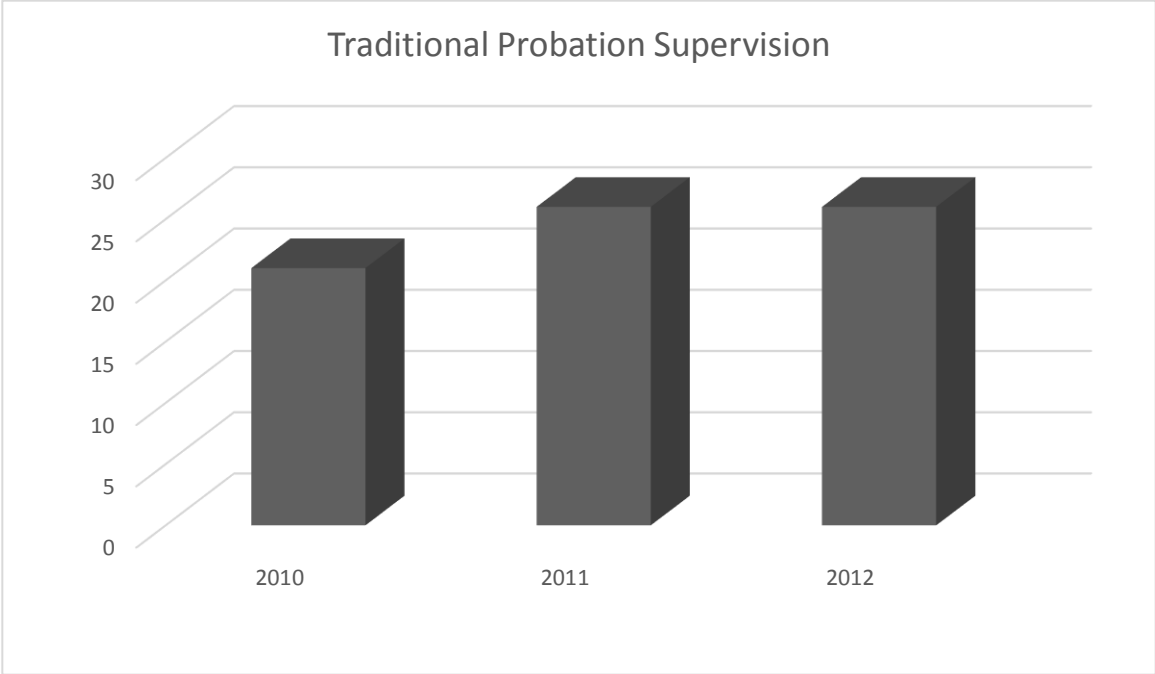
With the passage of LB 561, Nebraska State Probation will begin supervising previously placed youth on probation, and now those youth who have previously been placed with the Department of Health and Human Services under the Office of Juvenile Services. In addition, Nebraska State Probation will have the ability to facilitate and supervise those youth on Pre-adjudication/Pre-disposition court status. Resources and services can be provided to these youth on the front-end to decrease likelihood of further proceedings in the court system. This went into effect on July 1, 2013 with the transition of current delinquency cases being supervised by the Office of Juvenile Service occurring by June 30, 2014.

With the expansion of the Nebraska State Probation, there will be additional resources, services and programming available to assist the youth and the family in the community. Cass County will be serving additional youth and families with new resources and services not previously provided to or by Nebraska State Program.

District 2 Probation in Cass County will increase the amount of Probation Officers needed to provide supervision and assist in Juvenile Programming. Previously there has been one Probation Officer supervising a blend of all risk levels of cases. With the passage of LB 561, Probation has allotted additional Probation Officers to serve the above functions. There will be cases which will be in need of a Specialized Probation Officer who will carry a smaller caseload to provide the more intensive services, resources and programming. There will be a Community Based Resource Officer who will assist with those youth requiring less. This officer will carry an increased amount of youth and families. There will also be additional officer coverage for the increase in Pre-disposition Investigations. With the ability to now serve those youth and families at the Pre-adjudication/Predisposition phase in the court process, additional Probation Officer coverage will be needed. In addition, District 2 Probation in Cass County has been allotted a position of a Rise Specialist who will serve in the capacity to assist with education, employability, and vocational skills and training. Support Staff will be increased to serve to support the additional Officers and Specialist.

District 2 Probation in Cass County will be increasing in Officers, Specialist, and Support Staff to serve the increase in the number of youth and families being served with resources, services, and programming. The below graph indicates a growth in the number of those only being supervised by Probation in Cass County over the past three years (2010-2012). There will be additional youth and families transitioning from the Office of Juvenile Services, an

increase in Pre-disposition Investigations, and those youth and families in need of a facilitation or supervision of resources and services at the Pre-adjudication/predisposition phase of the court process.



Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results
1)Increase in Office equipment/ Supplies	a)evaluate the increase in officer/staff  b)identify equipment and supplies needed	a)Chief Probation Officer/Chief Deputy Probation Officer  b)Juvenile Supervisor  c)Probation Officer	a)ongoing process	a) funding to purchase the identified equipment and supplies	a)adequate supervision of youth and families to appropriate risk level

		d)Officer Manager			
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#### Priority #4

#### **Strengthen collaboration and distribute responsibilities among communities, public organizations, private organizations, government entities and all interested parties for community betterment via collective impact.**

The Cass County Juvenile Justice Collaborative will foster long term change to create a substance free community. Cass County has demonstrated a historical commitment embracing strategies to combat issues facing our youth in substance abuse, poor school commitment, as well as other risk factors. Risk factors include characteristics of school, community, and family environments, as well as characteristics of students and their peer groups that are known to predict the increased likelihood of drug use, delinquency, school dropout, and violence.

<http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/DataCenter/Pages/RiskFactors.aspx>

Cass County Nebraska recognizes that the key to success on working with issues that directly impact our youth, are going to be in the community taking responsibility as a whole. Problems that Cass County needs to address with our youth are complex, they require comprehensive solutions. Key indicators from the 2012 Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey (NRPFS) demonstrated many problems for our Cass County Youth from all four grade levels 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> in male and females' students. Lifetime substance use among our 6<sup>th</sup> grade students demonstrated that we have a dramatic increase in inhalants use; NRPFS 2010 data showed 6<sup>th</sup> grade use of 3.6% while the 2012 rate of use among 6<sup>th</sup> grade has increased to 16.7%. Cass County students in 10<sup>th</sup> grade are trending upward in lifetime substance abuse. The use of Alcohol is up from 43.3% to 46.2%, smokeless tobacco is up from 19.4% to 26.0%, Marijuana increased as well from 13.4% to currently 16.5%. Additionally academic failure for 6<sup>th</sup> grade in 2010 was 46.8%, 2012 shows a dramatic upward percentage of 72.4%.

Prevention strategies need to start when students are young and developing habits. Traditionally it has been difficult to get community members energized about working on substance abuse, violence, and other risk factors. To be successful there needs to be a wide spread coalition representing the many different sectors in the community. The prevention coalition will invite stakeholders to assess and evaluate the actions to develop prevention efforts. This will be done by enhancing structures currently in place; we will emphasize collaboration as a means to overcome budgetary & time constraints. In year one, we will identify a name, a mission, and a vision for our coalition. Structured leadership will be organized, and task forces will be formed.

The support data for this priority was extrapolated from the Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey results for 2012, profile report: Cass County. At the present time, the Student Health and Risk Prevention (SHARP) Surveillance System contains the only school-based student health surveys in Nebraska endorsed by both the Nebraska Department of Education and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Of the three surveys administered under SHARP, the Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey is the only survey that generates school-and community-level results. Data from the NRPFS can be used to help schools and communities assess current conditions and identify and prioritize local prevention issues. The Risk

and protective factor profiles provided by this survey reflect underlying conditions that can be addressed through specific types of interventions proven to be effective in either reducing risk or enhancing protection.

# INDEX A: Trend Data

	Definition	Grade 6				Grade 8				Grade 10				Grade 12			
		2003	2005	2007	2010	2012	2003	2005	2007	2010	2012	2003	2005	2007	2010	2012	2012
e ce	Alcohol	NA	NA**	9.7%	14.5%	13.3%	NA	NA**	28.9%	32.7%	23.0%	NA	NA**	54.3%	43.3%	46.2%	58.6%
	Cigarettes	NA	NA**	3.8%	5.6%	0.0%	NA	NA**	10.9%	20.0%	14.7%	NA	NA**	28.7%	19.4%	26.0%	38.2%
	Smokeless tobacco	NA	NA**	2.5%	1.9%	0.0%	NA	NA**	3.8%	13.0%	5.4%	NA	NA**	13.3%	13.4%	16.5%	30.9%
	Marijuana <sup>1</sup>	NA	NA**	1.1%	0.9%	0.0%	NA	NA**	5.4%	5.5%	4.0%	NA	NA**	20.7%	10.4%	20.5%	26.1%
	LSD/other psychedelics	NA	NA**	0.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA**	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	NA	NA**	0.5%	0.7%	2.3%	3.8%
	Cocaine/crack	NA	NA**	1.7%	NA	NA	NA	NA**	0.5%	0.0%	1.3%	NA	NA**	1.1%	0.0%	2.3%	6.3%
	Meth <sup>2</sup>	NA	NA**	0.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA**	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	NA	NA**	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%
	Inhalants	NA	NA**	1.7%	3.6%	16.7%	NA	NA**	6.5%	9.1%	1.3%	NA	NA**	3.3%	3.0%	5.3%	7.2%
	Steroids	NA	NA**	0.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA**	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	NA	NA**	0.0%	3.0%	0.8%	1.8%
	Other performance-enhancing drugs	NA	NA**	0.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA**	0.5%	1.8%	1.3%	NA	NA**	3.3%	4.5%	3.8%	3.2%
0 ce	Prescription drugs <sup>3</sup>	NA	NA**	0.0%	0.9%	3.3%	NA	NA**	3.3%	3.6%	4.0%	NA	NA**	8.2%	3.7%	3.0%	13.5%
	Non-prescription drugs <sup>4</sup>	NA	NA**	0.6%	0.9%	1.7%	NA	NA**	2.2%	1.8%	1.3%	NA	NA**	1.1%	3.0%	3.8%	8.1%
	Other illegal drugs	NA	NA**	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	NA	NA**	2.2%	0.0%	1.3%	NA	NA**	2.7%	3.0%	4.5%	7.2%
	Alcohol	NA	NA**	1.7%	2.7%	3.3%	NA	NA**	9.1%	9.1%	6.8%	NA	NA**	19.1%	19.4%	21.1%	20.9%
	Cigarettes	NA	NA**	0.6%	0.9%	0.0%	NA	NA**	5.5%	3.6%	6.7%	NA	NA**	12.8%	6.0%	11.5%	21.8%
	Smokeless tobacco	NA	NA**	0.0%	0.9%	0.0%	NA	NA**	2.2%	3.6%	2.7%	NA	NA**	6.1%	6.0%	7.6%	14.5%
	Marijuana <sup>1</sup>	NA	NA**	0.6%	0.9%	0.0%	NA	NA**	4.3%	1.8%	2.7%	NA	NA**	9.2%	6.0%	9.0%	9.1%
	LSD/other psychedelics	NA	NA**	0.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA**	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	NA	NA**	0.0%	0.0%	1.5%	0.0%
	Cocaine/crack	NA	NA**	0.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA**	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	NA	NA**	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	1.3%
	Meth <sup>2</sup>	NA	NA**	0.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA**	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	NA	NA**	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Inhalants	NA	NA**	0.0%	NA	1.7%	NA	NA**	2.2%	1.8%	0.0%	NA	NA**	2.2%	1.5%	0.8%	2.7%
	Steroids	NA	NA**	0.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA**	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	NA	NA**	0.0%	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%
	Other performance-enhancing drugs	NA	NA**	0.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA**	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	NA	NA**	2.8%	4.5%	3.8%	0.9%
	Prescription drugs <sup>3</sup>	NA	NA**	0.0%	NA	0.0%	NA	NA**	0.8%	3.6%	4.0%	NA	NA**	5.5%	0.0%	1.5%	4.8%
	Non-prescription drugs <sup>4</sup>	NA	NA**	0.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA**	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	NA	NA**	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.7%
	Other illegal drugs	NA	NA**	0.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA**	2.2%	0.0%	0.0%	NA	NA**	1.6%	0.7%	0.8%	0.8%

Definition	Grade 6				Grade 8				Grade 10				Grade 12			
	2003	2005	2007	2010	2012	2003	2005	2007	2010	2012	2003	2005	2007	2010	2012	2012
Carried a handgun	NA <sup>§</sup>	NA**	NA <sup>§</sup>	NA <sup>§</sup>	NA <sup>§</sup>	NA	NA**	4.8%	10.9%	9.3%	NA	NA**	NA	12.1%	3.8%	1.6%
Sold illegal drugs	NA	NA**	0.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA**	1.6%	0.0%	1.4%	NA	NA**	NA	6.7%	3.8%	0.0%
Stolen-fired to steal a motor vehicle	NA	NA**	0.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA**	1.6%	0.0%	1.3%	NA	NA**	NA	4.0%	1.8%	0.8%
Arrested	NA	NA**	0.6%	0.9%	0.0%	NA	NA**	2.2%	3.6%	2.7%	NA	NA**	NA	7.4%	2.7%	0.0%
Attacked someone with idea of seriously hurting them	NA	NA**	6.7%	5.4%	11.7%	NA	NA**	5.9%	12.7%	9.3%	NA	NA**	NA	9.4%	7.2%	4.0%
Took a handgun to school	NA	NA**	0.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA**	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	NA	NA**	NA	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Drove vehicle under the influence of alcohol	NA	NA**	1.7%	0.0%	NA	NA	NA**	3.3%	0.0%	1.3%	NA	NA**	NA	20.8%	14.4%	6.4%
<b>Community</b>																
Community Disorganization	NA	NA**	31.2%	39.6%	30.5%	NA	NA**	39.4%	NA <sup>§</sup>	53.3%	NA	NA**	NA	52.7%	NA <sup>§</sup>	51.6%
Law and Norms Favorable to Drug Use	NA	NA**	30.3%	NA <sup>§</sup>	NA <sup>§</sup>	NA	NA**	24.7%	NA <sup>§</sup>	37.8%	NA	NA**	NA	24.3%	NA <sup>§</sup>	50.0%
Perceived Availability of Drugs	NA	NA**	32.5%	34.6%	45.0%	NA	NA**	23.7%	38.5%	27.0%	NA	NA**	NA	23.3%	35.5%	29.5%
Perceived Availability of Handguns	NA	NA**	15.6%	43.3%	40.0%	NA	NA**	27.4%	47.2%	39.7%	NA	NA**	NA	18.3%	20.6%	30.6%
<b>Family</b>																
Poor Family/Management	NA <sup>§</sup>	NA**	NA <sup>§</sup>	35.2%	16.7%	NA <sup>§</sup>	NA**	NA <sup>§</sup>	37.0%	28.7%	NA <sup>§</sup>	NA**	NA <sup>§</sup>	22.9%	35.5%	28.5%
Parental Attitudes Favorable Toward Drug Use	NA	NA**	9.6%	13.0%	18.3%	NA	NA**	21.8%	38.9%	21.3%	NA	NA**	NA	39.1%	35.5%	32.2%
<b>School</b>																
Academic Failure	NA <sup>§</sup>	NA**	NA <sup>§</sup>	46.8%	72.4%	NA <sup>§</sup>	NA**	NA <sup>§</sup>	31.5%	23.6%	NA <sup>§</sup>	NA**	NA <sup>§</sup>	35.1%	35.6%	25.2%
Low Commitment to School	NA <sup>§</sup>	NA**	NA <sup>§</sup>	22.7%	33.3%	NA <sup>§</sup>	NA**	NA <sup>§</sup>	39.6%	37.1%	NA <sup>§</sup>	NA**	NA <sup>§</sup>	23.6%	39.2%	31.8%
<b>Peer/Individual</b>																
Early Initiation of Drug Use	NA	NA**	13.3%	NA <sup>§</sup>	NA <sup>§</sup>	NA	NA**	24.5%	29.1%	18.7%	NA	NA**	NA	28.0%	30.6%	18.5%
Early Initiation of Antisocial Behavior	NA	NA**	11.0%	NA <sup>§</sup>	NA <sup>§</sup>	NA	NA**	17.0%	30.9%	21.3%	NA	NA**	NA	26.8%	27.3%	14.5%
Favorable Attitudes Toward Antisocial Behavior	NA	NA**	25.6%	33.6%	30.0%	NA	NA**	22.0%	30.9%	32.4%	NA	NA**	NA	39.7%	40.3%	29.6%
Favorable Attitudes Toward Drug Use	NA	NA**	8.3%	11.8%	8.3%	NA	NA**	18.7%	34.5%	18.9%	NA	NA**	NA	32.2%	33.6%	28.5%
Perceived Risks of Drug Use	NA	NA**	39.0%	48.2%	33.3%	NA	NA**	25.0%	31.5%	48.0%	NA	NA**	NA	52.2%	51.5%	32.8%
Gang Involvement	NA	NA**	4.4%	3.7%	0.0%	NA	NA**	5.9%	3.6%	7.0%	NA	NA**	NA	7.2%	6.3%	1.7%

Information provided by Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey Results 2012 Profile Report: Cass County.

Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results
1)Build coalition capacity	a)Obtain commitments from 12 sectors to serve on prevention coalition within Cass County	Program director Member of coalition	a) ongoing process	a) list of community stakeholders	<p>a) Building positive relationships with community stakeholders and other organizations and programs</p> <p>b)Committed stakeholders accepting more responsibility and ownership of collaboration between the programs</p> <p>c)Stronger coalition capacity and readiness for other funding opportunities</p>

Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results
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2)Build Cass County Resource data base	<p>a) Research resources for services in Cass County and surrounding area.</p> <p>b)Garner permission from county to link resources from their website.</p> <p>c) Ensure resources are kept current, and modify when necessary.</p> <p>d)Market data base and resources through social media and earned media opportunities</p>	<p>Program Director</p> <p>Members of Coalition</p>	January 2015 ongoing	List of community resources	<p>a)Those in need have access to resources</p> <p>b)Community awareness of coalition</p>
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Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results
	Build evaluation tools to	Program Director	January 2015-ongoing	Research effective	a)Increase performance of coalition efforts



3)Evaluation of Coalition effectiveness	measure effectiveness of coalition	Members of coalition		evaluation surveys	b)Coalition can correct strategies and refine their process for further enhancements of programs and effectiveness  c)Communicate progress to stakeholders and community
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#### Priority #5

##### **Educate, engage, and involve parents and other adults as role models in the lives of Cass County youth and in youth programs.**

The Cass County Juvenile Justice Collaborative will foster long term change to create a substance free community. Cass County has demonstrated a historical commitment embracing strategies to combat issues facing our youth in substance abuse, poor school commitment, as well as other risk factors. Risk factors include characteristics of school, community, and family environments, as well as characteristics of students and their peer groups that are known to predict the increased likelihood of drug use, delinquency, school dropout, and violence.

<http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/DataCenter/Pages/RiskFactors.aspx>

Cass County Nebraska recognizes that the key to success on working with issues that directly impact our youth, are going to be in the community taking responsibility as a whole. Problems that Cass County needs to address with our youth are complex, they require comprehensive solutions. Key indicators from the 2012 Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey (NRPFS) demonstrated many problems for our Cass County Youth from all four grade levels 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> in male and females' students. Lifetime substance use among our 6<sup>th</sup> grade students demonstrated that we have a dramatic increase in inhalants use; NRPFS 2010 data showed 6<sup>th</sup> grade use of 3.6% while the 2012 rate of use among 6<sup>th</sup> grade has increased to 16.7%. Cass County students in 10<sup>th</sup> grade are trending upward in lifetime substance abuse. The use of Alcohol is up from 43.3% to 46.2%, smokeless tobacco is up from 19.4% to 26.0%, Marijuana increased as well from 13.4% to currently 16.5%. Additionally academic failure for 6<sup>th</sup> grade in 2010 was 46.8%, 2012 shows a dramatic upward percentage of 72.4%. <http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/DataCenter/Pages/NRPFS.aspx>

Parent engagement in schools is defined as parents and school staff working together to support and improve the learning, development, and health of children and adolescents. Parent engagement in schools is a shared responsibility in which schools and other community agencies and organizations are committed to reaching out to engage parents in meaningful ways, and parents are committed to actively supporting their children's and adolescents' learning

and development. This relationship between schools and parents cuts across and reinforces children's health and learning in multiple settings at home, in school, in out-of-school programs, and in the community.

Engaging parents in their children's school life is a promising [protective factors](http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/adolescenthealth/protective.htm) <http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/adolescenthealth/protective.htm>. Research shows that parent engagement in schools is closely linked to better student behavior, higher academic achievement, and enhanced social skills. Parent engagement also makes it more likely that children and adolescents will avoid unhealthy behaviors, such as sexual risk behaviors and tobacco, alcohol, and other drug use.

Efforts to improve child and adolescent health have typically addressed specific health risk behaviors, such as tobacco use or violence. However, results from a growing number of studies suggest that greater health impact might be achieved by also enhancing protective factors that help children and adolescents avoid multiple behaviors that place them at risk for adverse health and educational outcomes.

[http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/adolescenthealth/parent\\_engagement.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/adolescenthealth/parent_engagement.htm)

# INDEX A: Trend Data

	Definition	Grade 6				Grade 8				Grade 10				Grade 12			
		2003	2005	2007	2010	2012	2003	2005	2007	2010	2012	2003	2005	2007	2010	2012	2012
e ce	Alcohol	NA	NA**	9.7%	14.5%	13.3%	NA	NA**	28.9%	32.7%	23.0%	NA	NA**	54.3%	43.3%	46.2%	58.6%
	Cigarettes	NA	NA**	3.8%	5.6%	0.0%	NA	NA**	10.9%	20.0%	14.7%	NA	NA**	28.7%	19.4%	26.0%	38.2%
	Smokeless tobacco	NA	NA**	2.5%	1.9%	0.0%	NA	NA**	3.8%	13.0%	5.4%	NA	NA**	13.3%	13.4%	16.5%	30.9%
	Marijuana <sup>1</sup>	NA	NA**	1.1%	0.9%	0.0%	NA	NA**	5.4%	5.5%	4.0%	NA	NA**	20.7%	10.4%	20.5%	26.1%
	LSD/other psychedelics	NA	NA**	0.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA**	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	NA	NA**	0.5%	0.7%	2.3%	3.8%
	Cocaine/crack	NA	NA**	1.7%	NA	NA	NA	NA**	0.5%	0.0%	1.3%	NA	NA**	1.1%	0.0%	2.3%	6.3%
	Meth <sup>2</sup>	NA	NA**	0.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA**	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	NA	NA**	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%
	Inhalants	NA	NA**	1.7%	3.6%	16.7%	NA	NA**	6.5%	9.1%	1.3%	NA	NA**	3.3%	3.0%	5.3%	7.2%
	Steroids	NA	NA**	0.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA**	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	NA	NA**	0.0%	3.0%	0.8%	1.8%
	Other performance-enhancing drugs	NA	NA**	0.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA**	0.5%	1.8%	1.3%	NA	NA**	3.3%	4.5%	3.8%	3.8%
0	Prescription drugs <sup>3</sup>	NA	NA**	0.0%	0.9%	3.3%	NA	NA**	3.3%	3.6%	4.0%	NA	NA**	8.2%	3.7%	3.0%	13.5%
	Non-prescription drugs <sup>4</sup>	NA	NA**	0.6%	0.9%	1.7%	NA	NA**	2.2%	1.8%	1.3%	NA	NA**	1.1%	3.0%	3.8%	8.1%
	Other illegal drugs	NA	NA**	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	NA	NA**	2.2%	0.0%	1.3%	NA	NA**	2.7%	3.0%	4.5%	7.2%
	Alcohol	NA	NA**	1.7%	2.7%	3.3%	NA	NA**	9.1%	9.1%	6.8%	NA	NA**	19.1%	19.4%	21.1%	41.2%
	Cigarettes	NA	NA**	0.6%	0.9%	0.0%	NA	NA**	5.5%	3.6%	6.7%	NA	NA**	12.8%	6.0%	11.5%	26.2%
	Smokeless tobacco	NA	NA**	0.0%	0.9%	0.0%	NA	NA**	2.2%	3.6%	2.7%	NA	NA**	6.1%	6.0%	7.6%	18.8%
	Marijuana <sup>1</sup>	NA	NA**	0.6%	0.9%	0.0%	NA	NA**	4.3%	1.8%	2.7%	NA	NA**	9.2%	6.0%	9.0%	13.5%
	LSD/other psychedelics	NA	NA**	0.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA**	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	NA	NA**	0.0%	0.0%	1.5%	0.7%
	Cocaine/crack	NA	NA**	0.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA**	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	NA	NA**	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	1.3%
	Meth <sup>2</sup>	NA	NA**	0.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA**	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	NA	NA**	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
ce	Inhalants	NA	NA**	0.0%	NA	1.7%	NA	NA**	2.2%	1.8%	0.0%	NA	NA**	2.2%	1.5%	0.8%	0.7%
	Steroids	NA	NA**	0.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA**	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	NA	NA**	0.0%	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%
	Other performance-enhancing drugs	NA	NA**	0.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA**	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	NA	NA**	2.8%	4.5%	3.8%	2.7%
	Prescription drugs <sup>3</sup>	NA	NA**	0.0%	NA	0.0%	NA	NA**	0.8%	3.6%	4.0%	NA	NA**	5.5%	0.0%	1.5%	10.0%
	Non-prescription drugs <sup>4</sup>	NA	NA**	0.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA**	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	NA	NA**	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%
	Other illegal drugs	NA	NA**	0.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA**	2.2%	0.0%	0.0%	NA	NA**	1.6%	0.7%	0.8%	1.3%
		NA	NA**	0.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA**	2.2%	0.0%	0.0%	NA	NA**	1.6%	0.7%	0.8%	1.3%

Definition	Grade 6				Grade 8				Grade 10				Grade 12			
	2003	2005	2007	2010	2012	2003	2005	2007	2010	2012	2003	2005	2007	2010	2012	2012
Carried a handgun	NA <sup>§</sup>	NA**	NA <sup>§</sup>	NA <sup>§</sup>	NA <sup>§</sup>	NA	NA**	4.8%	10.9%	9.3%	NA	NA**	NA	12.1%	3.8%	1.6%
Sold illegal drugs	NA	NA**	0.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA**	1.6%	0.0%	1.4%	NA	NA**	NA	6.7%	3.8%	0.0%
Stolen-fired to steal a motor vehicle	NA	NA**	0.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA**	1.6%	0.0%	1.3%	NA	NA**	NA	4.0%	1.8%	0.8%
Arrested	NA	NA**	0.6%	0.9%	0.0%	NA	NA**	2.2%	3.6%	2.7%	NA	NA**	NA	7.4%	2.7%	0.0%
Attacked someone with idea of seriously hurting them	NA	NA**	6.7%	5.4%	11.7%	NA	NA**	5.9%	12.7%	9.3%	NA	NA**	NA	9.4%	7.2%	4.0%
Took a handgun to school	NA	NA**	0.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA**	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	NA	NA**	NA	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Drove vehicle under the influence of alcohol	NA	NA**	1.7%	0.0%	NA	NA	NA**	3.3%	0.0%	1.3%	NA	NA**	NA	20.8%	14.4%	6.4%
<b>Community</b>																
Community Disorganization	NA	NA**	31.2%	39.6%	30.5%	NA	NA**	39.4%	NA <sup>§</sup>	53.3%	NA	NA**	NA	52.7%	NA <sup>§</sup>	51.6%
Law and Norms Favorable to Drug Use	NA	NA**	30.3%	NA <sup>§</sup>	NA <sup>§</sup>	NA	NA**	24.7%	NA <sup>§</sup>	37.8%	NA	NA**	NA	24.3%	NA <sup>§</sup>	50.0%
Perceived Availability of Drugs	NA	NA**	32.5%	34.6%	45.0%	NA	NA**	23.7%	38.5%	27.0%	NA	NA**	NA	23.3%	35.5%	29.5%
Perceived Availability of Handguns	NA	NA**	15.6%	43.3%	40.0%	NA	NA**	27.4%	47.2%	39.7%	NA	NA**	NA	18.3%	20.6%	30.6%
<b>Family</b>																
Poor Family/Management	NA <sup>§</sup>	NA**	NA <sup>§</sup>	35.2%	16.7%	NA <sup>§</sup>	NA**	NA <sup>§</sup>	37.0%	28.7%	NA <sup>§</sup>	NA**	NA <sup>§</sup>	22.9%	35.5%	28.5%
Parental Attitudes Favorable Toward Drug Use	NA	NA**	9.6%	13.0%	18.3%	NA	NA**	21.8%	38.9%	21.3%	NA	NA**	NA	39.1%	35.5%	32.2%
<b>School</b>																
Academic Failure	NA <sup>§</sup>	NA**	NA <sup>§</sup>	46.8%	72.4%	NA <sup>§</sup>	NA**	NA <sup>§</sup>	31.5%	23.6%	NA <sup>§</sup>	NA**	NA <sup>§</sup>	35.1%	35.6%	25.2%
Low Commitment to School	NA <sup>§</sup>	NA**	NA <sup>§</sup>	22.7%	33.3%	NA <sup>§</sup>	NA**	NA <sup>§</sup>	39.6%	37.1%	NA <sup>§</sup>	NA**	NA <sup>§</sup>	23.6%	39.2%	31.8%
<b>Peer/Individual</b>																
Early Initiation of Drug Use	NA	NA**	13.3%	NA <sup>§</sup>	NA <sup>§</sup>	NA	NA**	24.5%	29.1%	18.7%	NA	NA**	NA	26.0%	30.6%	18.5%
Early Initiation of Antisocial Behavior	NA	NA**	11.0%	NA <sup>§</sup>	NA <sup>§</sup>	NA	NA**	17.0%	30.9%	21.3%	NA	NA**	NA	26.8%	27.3%	14.5%
Favorable Attitudes Toward Antisocial Behavior	NA	NA**	25.6%	33.6%	30.0%	NA	NA**	22.0%	30.9%	32.4%	NA	NA**	NA	39.7%	40.3%	29.6%
Favorable Attitudes Toward Drug Use	NA	NA**	8.3%	11.8%	8.3%	NA	NA**	18.7%	34.5%	18.9%	NA	NA**	NA	32.2%	33.6%	28.5%
Perceived Risks of Drug Use	NA	NA**	39.0%	48.2%	33.3%	NA	NA**	25.0%	31.5%	48.0%	NA	NA**	NA	52.2%	51.5%	32.8%
Gang Involvement	NA	NA**	4.4%	3.7%	0.0%	NA	NA**	5.9%	3.6%	7.0%	NA	NA**	NA	7.2%	6.3%	1.7%

Information provided by Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey Results 2012 Profile Report: Cass County.

Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results
1)Implement web presence for Parents and schools	<p>a)Create research based resources for parent in Cass County and surrounding areas</p> <p>b)Maintain and update resources</p> <p>c)Create and post to social media and link to website</p> <p>d)Create media campaigns on changing social norms, via Facebook and other free social media sites</p>	<p>Program director</p> <p>Members of the coalition</p>	October 2015-ongoing	<p>a) List of community resources and surrounding areas</p> <p>b)Research changing social norms prevention programs</p>	<p>a) Parents will have access to research based, locally driven data</p> <p>b)Free social media tools creates awareness and collaboration via connecting and sharing</p>

Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results
2)Provide educational opportunities for youth and parents	<p>a) Set up quarterly dates for Family Skills events</p> <p>b)build partnerships with Cass County schools for events locations</p> <p>c)develop presentation programs for improving family skills and values</p> <p>d)create pre and post evaluations</p>	<p>Program director</p> <p>Members of coalition</p>	January 2015 and ongoing	Evidence based programs that show positive outcomes with evaluation components	<p>a) Improved family relationships</p> <p>b) Compile and analyze results to identify needs and gaps</p>

Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results
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## **Priority #6 Violence Prevention and Mentoring**

The first identified priority for this plan is the L.I.F.E. Teen Leadership Academy (Leadership in a Fun Environment). The mission is to empower youth with leadership while having fun through organized team sports, healthy living, and community awareness. This program targets at-risk youth, defined as those youth, and their families who have not have the resiliency and human capital to reach self-sufficiency successfully. The program design addresses violence prevention and issues of poverty, low graduation rate, and delinquency and status offending by providing services using evidence based intervention methods in two major categories of prevention: developing resilience and human capital that prevents high-risk behaviors and leads to self-sufficiency and self-efficacy through the L.I.F.E. Teen Empowerment Academy

The problems addressed in this priority include 1) successfully serve youth and their families by bringing services to them in the community; 2) provide a program that is modeled after an evidence-based conceptual frameworks such as *Advancing The Well Being And Self-Sufficiency Of At-risk Youth*, published by the Administration For Children And Families, and using the best practices and guidelines as documented in the *The Elements of Effective Practices for Mentoring*, published by mentor.org, and Search Institute's *40 Developmental Assets* and Banister's *12 Pillars of Leadership*, and 3) implement evidence based interventions that will help at-risk youth and strengthen families that allows them to make positive life choices and enable them to maximize their personal potential.

The major problem to be addressed by this project is youth violence prevention; specifically, "Reducing the incidence of youth violence and exposure to violence through strategic, holistic community-wide efforts" (2011-2015 *Douglas County Comprehensive Juvenile Services Plan*) for the over 59,000 youth in Douglas County facing some of the most serious obstacles and issues every day (Kids Count, 2012). The biggest obstacle faced as a community was is youth violence. With nearly 4,000 youth arrested in 2011 what are especially disturbing are the serious types of crimes that our youth are committing. "Violent crimes, which include murder, violent sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault by juveniles, occur most frequently in the hours immediately *following the close of school on school days* (*OJJDP Statistical Briefing Book*).

In 2011, Heather Koboll *et.al*, compiled a, *Synthesis of Research and Resources to Support at Risk Youth*, which outlined the key components that prevent a successful transition from adolescence to adulthood. The most common underlying risk factors facing at-risk youth, their families, and communities are: Poverty as the most underlying problem, Family Instability, Dysfunction, Child Maltreatment and Exposure to violence in the community. Additional risk factors include School Resources and the Environment. In high poverty and rural communities where resources are low, academic achievement slows down and creates an environment where bullying and other behavioral problems exist.

The large number of mentoring programs currently in the United States stems, in part, from longstanding public and governmental concern over the negative outcomes experienced by significant proportions of youth in this country, especially those growing up under conditions of disadvantage. During the past decade, such concern has served as an impetus for noteworthy mentoring initiatives funded through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP); the Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS), Education(ED), and Labor; and the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Another priority identified along with violence prevention is mentoring. A growing body of knowledge suggests that volunteer mentoring relationships can positively influence a range of outcomes, including improvements in peer and parental relationships, academic achievement, and self-concept, as well as lower recidivism rates among juvenile delinquents, and reductions in substance abuse. The group L.I.F.E Teen Leadership Academy provides mentoring



opportunities that work in conjunction with an overall plan to “Mobilize community resources around a centralized, multifaceted approach to curbing community violence, and continuously improve community-based violence prevention strategies for an underserved demographic.” Specifically in the prevention of youth violence, Banister’s Leadership Academy has designed its L.I.F.E Teen Empowerment Academy and its Levels of Leadership Mentoring component to work in conjunction with all other BLA programs. The Level of Leadership Mentoring component begins once a youth has enrolled in the program and last throughout their participation, and beyond, where necessary. Assessments are used to help identify which evidence informed interventions are best suited for the youth. Families will receive an intake packet and an assigned time for youth to attend an intake meeting to discuss the assessments, academic performance, behavior and other records from the previous year to complete the mentoring plan for that youth.

A Recent study, "The Role of Risk: Mentoring Experiences and Outcomes for Youth with Varying Risk Profiles," funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, shows that higher-risk youth benefit from mentoring in similar ways as other children.

The study showed that higher-risk youth with mentors had improvements in symptoms of depression, as well as gains in social acceptance, academic attitudes and grades. The reduction of symptoms of depression is important because almost one in four youth report symptoms of depression. Research has also linked depression to a host of other short- and long-term problems for youth.

The term "at risk" youth encompasses a wide range of definitions. Kazdin (1993) stated that at-risk referred to the "increased likelihood over base rates in the population that a particular outcome will occur" (p. 129). He referred to at-risk behaviors as those activities in which youth engage that increase the likelihood of adverse psychological, social, and health consequences. Dryfoos (1990) defined the term as applying to young people who are at risk for not maturing into responsible adults. Resnick and Burr (1996) offered a more detailed definition by stating that youth can be defined as at risk because they engaged in risky behavior (e.g., early sexual behavior, truancy, tobacco/alcohol/drug use, running away from home/foster home, associating with delinquent peers). Exposure to certain environments may place a child at risk, and these environments or situations included poverty, dangerous neighborhoods, and family dysfunction (e.g., abusive/neglectful caretakers, out of home placement, and single parent homes). Dryfoos (1990) reported statistics on the number of youth who are in categories of risk. Among the approximately 28 million adolescents in the United States, 10% or 2.8 million were at very high risk; 15% or 4.2 million were at high; 25% or 7 million were at moderate risk (engaged in only one problem behavior); and 50% were at low or no risk.

In Nebraska, the Student Health and Risk Prevention (SHARP) Surveillance System, had students in grades 6-12, self-identify delinquent behaviors defined as those behaviors that are illegal, violent, and/or highly unacceptable in society; as well as recent bullying behavior. The purpose of the survey is to identify problem behaviors and possible solutions through school, family and community engagement. By measuring risk behaviors and risk factors in a population, prevention programs can be implemented to reduce those factors and increase the chances at success for the student. An example would be if academic failure is identified as an elevated risk factor in a community, then mentoring, tutoring, and increased opportunities and rewards can be provided to improve academic performance.

Through the SHARP surveillance system, students in Nebraska as a whole identified significant delinquent and bullying behaviors. The SHARP data through the surveillance system is representative of all counties in Nebraska which includes Cass County. The results for those behaviors are represented as follows:

**Priority: #6 Violence Prevention and mentoring (new priority)**

Strategy	Action Steps	Timelines	Responsible Parties	Resources Needed	Evidence-Based Practice
<b>1)</b> Increase the stability and engagement of at risk families by meeting their basic needs and providing a safety net through recruitment to the LIFE (Leadership in a Fun Environment) program.	1. Youth and their families will attend program recruitment events and fill out initial forms.  2. Youth will attend programs on Fridays and Saturdays.  3. Youth will participate in leadership activities during the LIFE program.	July 1 2015 Every Friday and Saturday 6:30pm- 10:30pm	Banister's Leadership Academy Cass County L.I.F.E Program Coordinator, Leadership Program Specialist and Inclusive Program Specialist	List of community stakeholders	Is the proposed program a model, best-practice, evidence-based, or promising practice program? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No  Please list websites and/or information that exist to determine that the proposed program is evidence based and/or effective? <a href="http://www.blaomaha.org/home.aspx">http://www.blaomaha.org/home.aspx</a> <b>Outcomes:</b> Is this program being evaluated? Explain evaluation and outcome data that establishes this as an effective program.  Families will build trusting relationship with staff and a caring adult.  Provide preventative services to Cass County.  Provide each family with caring adult

**Priority: #6 Violence Prevention and mentoring (new priority)**

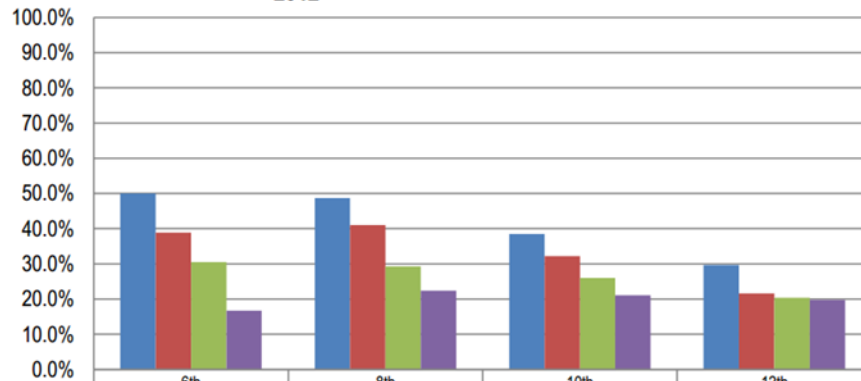
Strategy	Action Steps	Timelines	Responsible Parties	Resources Needed	Evidence-Based Practice
2) Increase resilience and human capital through organized sports, healthy living, and community awareness for 12 months.	1. Youth will complete Leadership Compass. 2. Youth will complete Behavioral Assessments. 3. Youth will complete Behavioral Assessments	July 1,2015 Every Friday and Saturday 6:30pm-10:30pm	Banister's Leadership Academy Cass County L.I.F.E Program Coordinator, Leadership Program Specialist and Inclusive Program Specialist	Access to Assessments online	<p>Is the proposed program a model, best-practice, evidence-based, or promising practice program?  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes    <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Please list websites and/or information that exist to determine that the proposed program is evidence based and/or effective?  <a href="http://www.blaomaha.org/home.aspx">http://www.blaomaha.org/home.aspx</a></p> <p><b>Outcomes:</b> Is this program being evaluated? Explain evaluation and outcome data that establishes this as an effective program.</p> <p>Youth will be encouraged to do well in all aspects of life.</p> <p>Youth will be encouraged to do well in all aspects of life.</p> <p>Youth will spend 4 or more hours every week in physical activities.</p>

**Priority: #6 Violence Prevention and mentoring (new priority)**

Strategy	Action Steps	Timelines	Responsible Parties	Resources Needed	Evidence-Based Practice
<b>3)</b>  Maintain the reduced participation of youth in gang-related activities through assessments and supervised programming for the next 12 months.	Youth will complete Behavioral Assessments.  Youth will complete the 40 developmental Assets questionnaire.  Youth will meet with LLS Advisors during	July 1, 2015  Every Friday and Saturday 6:30pm-10:30pm	Banister's and Inclusive Program Leadership Academy Cass County L.I.F.E Program Coordinator, Leadership Program Specialist Specialist	Access to Assessments online	<p>Is the proposed program a model, best-practice, evidence-based, or promising practice program?  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes    <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Please list websites and/or information that exist to determine that the proposed program is evidence based and/or effective?  <a href="http://www.blaomaha.org/home.aspx">http://www.blaomaha.org/home.aspx</a></p> <p><b>Outcomes:</b> Is this program being evaluated? Explain evaluation and outcome data that establishes this as an effective program.</p> <p>Reinforce Resistance Skills to avoid negative peer pressure and dangerous situations</p>

## Location of Bullying during the Past 12 Months

**Percentage that were Bullied during the Past 12 Months, by Type and Location of Bullying, \***  
**2012**



Any bullying**	50.0%	48.7%	38.5%	29.7%
Been bullied on school property	38.9%	41.0%	32.2%	21.6%
Been bullied away from school property	30.5%	29.3%	26.0%	20.4%
Been electronically bullied (by e-mail, text, chat, etc.)	16.7%	22.4%	21.1%	19.8%

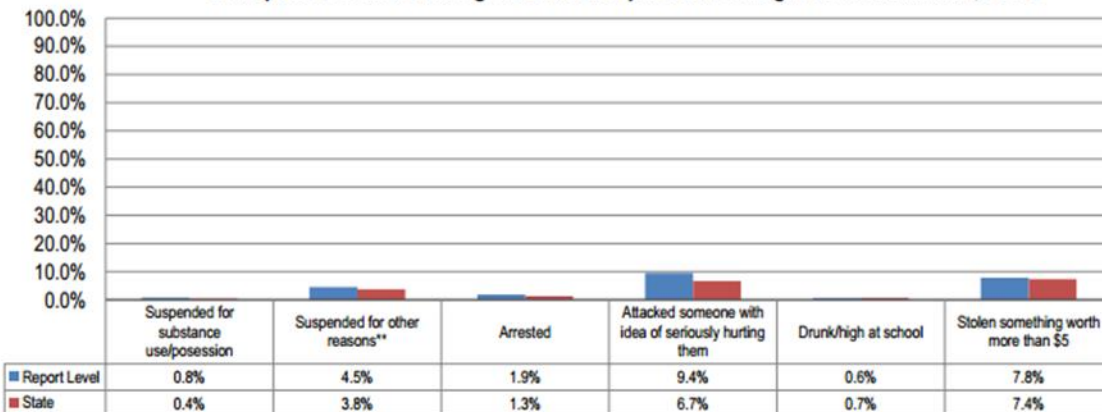
Note. \*Percentage who reported being bullied in each location. \*\*Percentage of students who reported being bullied in one or more of these locations.

## Delinquent Behaviors and Bullying

This section contains information on delinquent behaviors (i.e., behaviors that are illegal, violent, and/or highly unacceptable in society) as well as recent bullying behavior among 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in Nebraska. There are 11 delinquent behaviors presented in this section, including behaviors that occur both on and off school property. Bullying questions were added to the 2010 surveys in response to interest from school and community leaders.

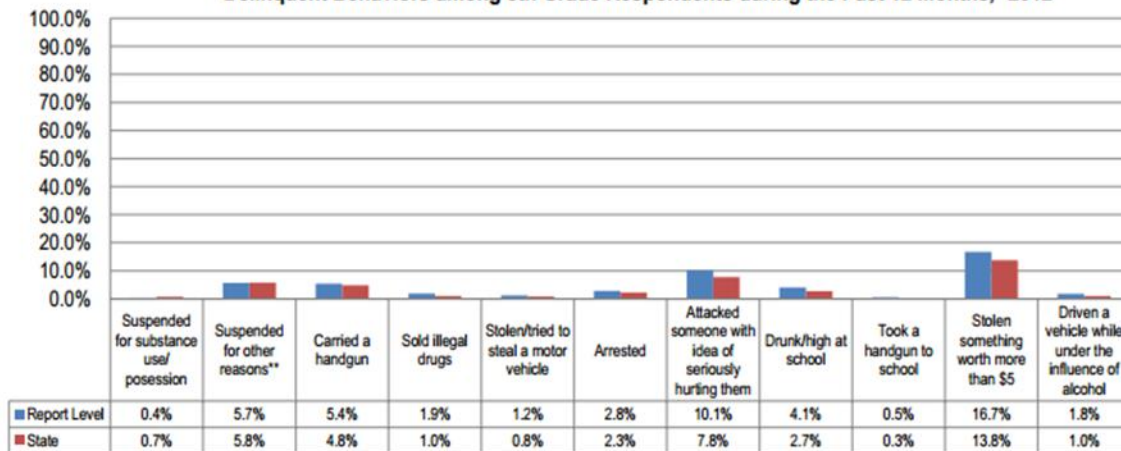
### Delinquent Behavior during the Past 12 Months

**Delinquent Behaviors among 6th Grade Respondents during the Past 12 Months,\* 2012**



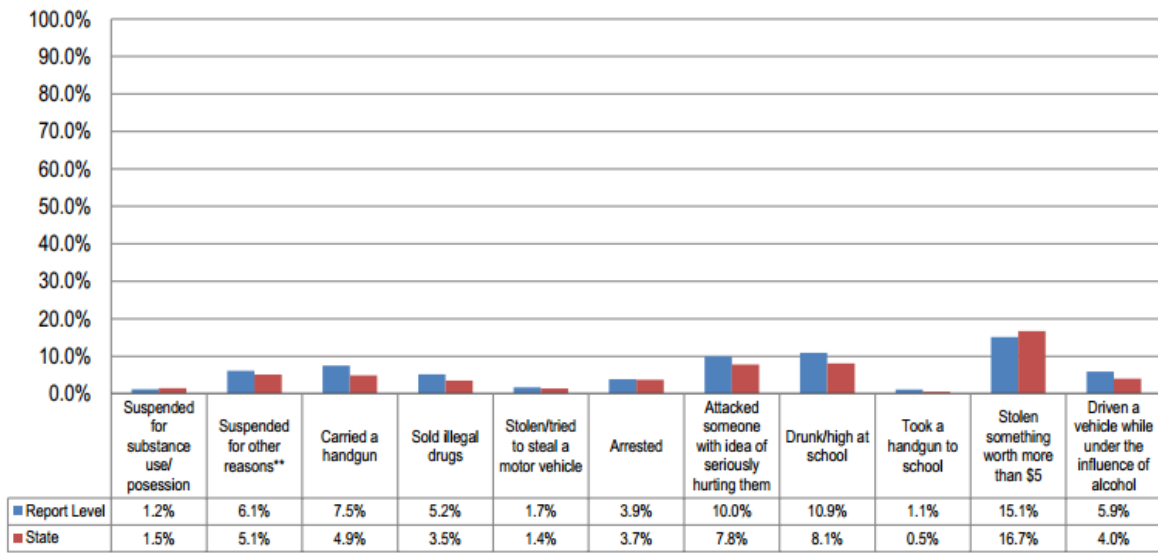
Notes: \*Percentage who reported one or more occurrences of each event during the past 12 months. \*\*Suspended for reasons other than tobacco, alcohol, and drugs.

**Delinquent Behaviors among 8th Grade Respondents during the Past 12 Months,\* 2012**



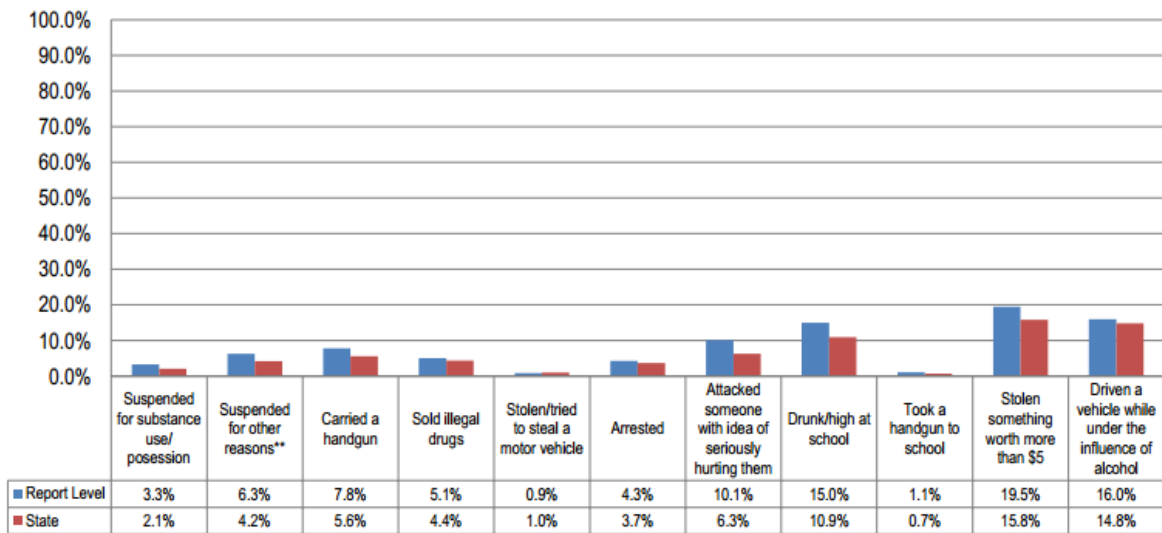
Notes: \*Percentage who reported one or more occurrences of each event during the past 12 months. \*\*Suspended for reasons other than tobacco, alcohol, and drugs.

### Delinquent Behaviors among 10th Grade Respondents during the Past 12 Months, \* 2012



Notes. \*Percentage who reported one or more occurrences of each event during the past 12 months. \*\*Suspended for reasons other than tobacco, alcohol, and drugs.

### Delinquent Behaviors among 12th Grade Respondents during the Past 12 Months, \* 2012



Notes. \*Percentage who reported one or more occurrences of each event during the past 12 months. \*\*Suspended for reasons other than tobacco, alcohol, and drugs.

Surveys show that over recent years, there has been a widening of the net for offenses that land young people in the Juvenile Justice System. Why does net widening happen? One reason is that some of the behaviors that we now criminalize in our juvenile justice system are behaviors that used to be tolerated to some degree by society (American Psychological Association, 2008; Dupper, 2010; Snyder 1998). Many researchers cite the myth of juvenile violent offenders, perpetuated by the media, as the underlying reason for the rapid increase in juvenile court processing (Dembo, Wareham, & Schmeidler, 2005; Haegerich, Salerno, & Bottoms, 2012; Greene & Evelo, 2013; Muschert, 2007; Snyder, 1998). More recent legal cases and reform efforts point to a systemic misunderstanding of adolescent development as the source of this net widening. For example, a recent study conducted by Allen, Trzcinski, & Kubiak (2012) found that not only were participants' views of adolescent development predictive of how they believed juveniles should be treated in the justice system, but attitudes toward adolescent development explained more variance in how juveniles should be treated than any other demographic construct. Taking adolescent development into account, evaluators and stakeholders should inquire whether: (a) the youth requires any intervention or whether the process brings juveniles into the system unnecessarily, and (b) whether the intervention is a developmentally appropriate response designed to reduce recidivism

Research also shows that offenses such as truancy, fighting, property crimes and drug abuse violations, are the types of crimes that have widened the net for juvenile offenses, when intervention, community engagement and/or therapeutic options would be a more viable choice. The 2013 Crime Commission reports for Nebraska specific to Cass county for such offenses are as follows:

YEAR(s): 2013  
COUNTY: Cass  
AGE: JUVENILE (0-17 yrs.)

County	Agency	Larceny	Simple Assault	Fraud	Stolen Property	Weapons	Drug Abuse Violations	Total
Cass	Plattsmouth P.D.	3	3	1	6	2	6	21
Cass	Nebraska State Patrol	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Totals</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>22</b>

What we know is that across America an estimated 8.5 million youth (about 20%) do not have caring adults in their lives. Those from disadvantaged homes and communities are over-represented in this number. Young persons who lack a strong relationship with a caring adult while growing up are much more vulnerable to a host of difficulties, ranging from academic failure to involvement in serious risk behaviors. Research finds that resilient youth—those who successfully transition from risk-filled backgrounds to the adult world of work and good citizenship—are consistently distinguished by the presence of a structured community programming and a caring adult in their lives. The programming proposed under this Priority 1 project addresses these issues and outcomes for the families, communities and the individual youth are positive.



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## Appendixes

**CASS COUNTY**

**JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM POINTS ANALYSIS**

**Updated Juvenile Data**

The Juvenile Justice System Analysis Tool (Tool) was developed by the Juvenile Justice Institute at the University of Nebraska at Omaha in conjunction with the Nebraska Crime Commission to assist in County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Planning.

The Tool consists of twelve areas of decision points that make up the formal juvenile justice system in Nebraska. Various factors are present at each decision point—oftentimes changing from year to year based on state or county dynamics within the system such as changes in policies, programs, and/or personnel.

There are formal factors dictating certain decision points in the system, such as statutory authority. In addition, each county or community has unique factors surrounding certain decision points within the local county juvenile justice system. Identifying such informal factors helps to understand and assess juvenile justice needs and issues in individual locales.

**Cass County**

Cass County is updating its Juvenile Justice System Analysis Tool with more current data. This document represents the most current juvenile data available for Cass County to date.

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## Cass County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan 2012 – 2015

### Cass County Data

Juvenile court offense data for Cass County is provided for years 2007, 2008, and 2009 (Juvenile Court Reporting—Nebraska Crime Commission)<sup>1</sup> appears below. Arrest numbers for each year represent arrests made of 0 – 17 year-olds in the county and are given for 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010.

In 2010, according to OJJDP at [http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/asp/profile\\_selection.asp](http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/asp/profile_selection.asp), Cass County had a juvenile population (ages 0 – 17 years old) of 15,977, with the following breakdown of race and ethnicity:

Race →					
Ethnicity ↓	White	Black	American Indian	Asian	Total
Non Hispanic	5,973	72	30	42	6,117
Total	6234	76	40	43	6,393

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<sup>1</sup>

### **Juvenile Court Reporting (JCR)**

The Nebraska Crime Commission's Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) collects information from the courts on juveniles processed through the juvenile justice system. Approximately 8,000 juvenile cases a year receive final disposition or judgment which are reported to the Crime Commission by paper forms and by the computerized court system JUSTICE. Various statistics are compiled from these data by the SAC for use in juvenile justice planning. Data are provided back to local and state agencies, policy makers, the courts, [National Center for Juvenile Justice](#) and federal [Bureau of Justice Statistics](#).

### **Nebraska Juvenile Court Data Set**

Juvenile court information has been submitted to the Crime Commission on an ongoing basis for over 20 years. When a case reaches a disposition, meaning finality with concern to the court proceedings, a data collection form is completed and forwarded to the Crime Commission. The reported information is collected within the county court or by the probation office. There data typically include cases which have been handled with a formal petition having been filed. The statistics reported here by the Crime Commission only contain information on cases handled through a formal petition. The terms, cases, petitions and referrals may all be used describe the same group of juveniles processed. This does not necessarily represent all cases filed in juvenile court during those times; rather only those that received final a disposition or judgment. Information on pending cases is not included.

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**Cass County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan  
2012 – 2015**

**Cass County Data**

**NEBRASKA JUVENILE COURT REPORT - CASS COUNTY**

	2007	2008	2009	2010
<b>ARRESTS</b>	49	37	29	59
<b>OFFENSES</b>				
3rd Degree Assault	6	6	2	
Sexual Assault - 1st	1	1	0	
Sexual Assault - 2nd	0	0	0	
Burglary	0	4	1	
Drug - Felony	0	0	0	
Theft < \$1500	1	0	1	
Theft < \$500	9	3	5	
Theft < \$200	11	2	1	
Crim Mischief - Felony	0	1	0	
Crim Mischief - Misd	6	7	3	
Major Trespass	1	4	1	
Forgery - Misd - Major	1	0	0	
Weapon - Misd	0	0	0	
Disturbing Peace	11	2	0	
Other Felony	2	1	0	
Other Misdemeanor	20	16	1	
Truancy	0	0	1	
Ungovernable Behavior	14	3	1	
Possession of Alcohol	17	7	3	
Other Status	0	0	0	
Neglect	23	7	0	
Dependent	1	3	0	
Other/Unknown	17	21	116	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>136</b>	

## Appendix B Community Capacity Inventory

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### CASS COUNTY

#### COMMUNITY STABILIZING EFFORTS REVIEW

The Community Stabilizing Efforts Review incorporates the information gathered from various sources, such as the community's Community Capacity Inventory survey, in order to better identify the state of juvenile services available in your local area. This process helps reveals ways to work towards a community framework in which your juvenile justice system and juvenile services can best be integrated for optimal impact on youth in your community.

##### Collective Impact

*Collective impact*<sup>1</sup> is the commitment of a group of important parties from different sectors in the community to a common agenda for solving a specific problem. The quality of the cooperative action and the nature of the problem being addressed is what distinguishes collective impact from "regular" collaboration. Collaboration is not new as there are many examples of partnerships, networks, and other types of joint efforts. Collective impact initiatives are unique in that they involve five conditions for success. These include a structured process that leads to

- a common agenda,
- shared measurement systems,
- mutually reinforcing activities among all participants,
- continuous communication, and
- a centralized infrastructure or backbone organization.

The Community Planning process assists communities in reaching collective impact over time in order to successfully impact the local pressing needs and under-served regarding youth.

##### Developing a Common Framework

The initial goal within the community with regard to juvenile justice is to talk with the same language and look at the same things; in other words, to develop a common framework. This will help in developing a common agenda. There may be lots of programming available within a community, for example, but no integration or shared ideas. A solution to that

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<sup>1</sup> *Collective Impact* by John Kania & Mark Kramer. Stanford Social Innovation Review, Winter 2011

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challenge would be to coordinate efforts and ideas. First, a community must share a common framework.

Questions to ask the community might be:

- Are you currently focused on specific program ideas and priorities?
- Are you taking into consideration community priorities?

Until the community identifies priorities that in turn become individual program priorities, then the community is not organized around what is best for kids. Again, it is important to identify a framework that is based in research and shows what works with kids. “What works” is the 40 Developmental Assets that are applicable to all youth and the 43 YLS/CMI Risk-Need Factors that if not addressed, kids will continue to get in trouble. This is the beginning of developing a common framework.

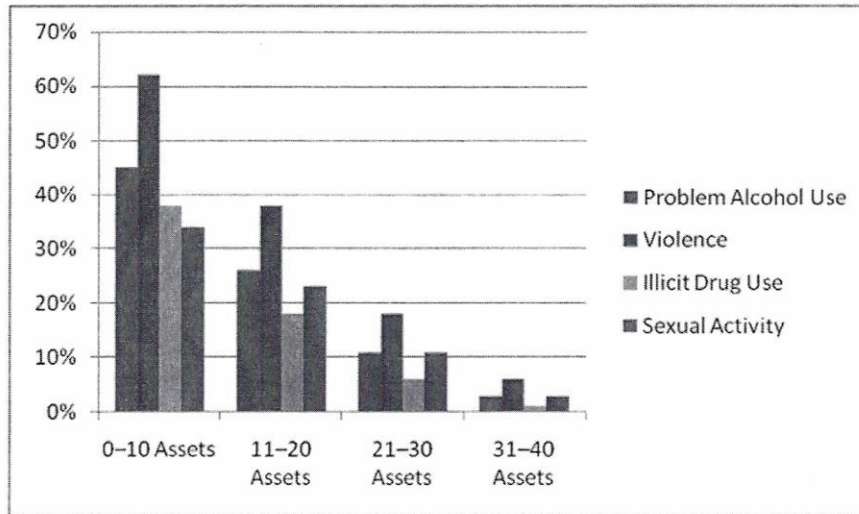
### 40 Developmental Assets

According to the Search Institute, “The Developmental Assets represent the relationships, opportunities, and personal qualities that young people need to avoid risks and to thrive.” Assets have ability to protect youth from many different harmful or unhealthy choices. Youth with the most Assets are least likely to engage in patterns of high-risk behavior, based on surveys of almost 150,000 6th- to 12th-grade youth in 202 communities across the United States in calendar year 2003 (Search Institute at [www.search-institute.org](http://www.search-institute.org)).

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### Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI) Risk-Need Factors

The YLS/CMI assesses a juvenile's risks and needs, then provides an indication of whether the youth might be socially unstable and whether the youth is likely to exhibit delinquent behavior. Most juvenile justice practitioners across the state of Nebraska are familiar with the YLS/CMI factors, particularly Probation, the Office of Juvenile Services, and many diversion programs.

### Community Capacity Inventory

As part of the Cass County Community Planning process, the Community Capacity Inventory (CCI) survey was administered to programs and services available to youth in order to gain an understanding of how the 40 Developmental Assets and YLS risk-need factors are being addressed in your community. The CCI provides insight into the community's availability of juvenile services. Specifically, it helps the community understand how the 40 Developmental Assets and the YLS/CMI risk-need factors are addressed in Cass County.

8 programs working with youth in Cass County responded to the CCI survey. Those who responded include:

- Plattsmouth Healthcare/Urgent Care



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- Plattsmouth Public School
- Cass County CASA
- KVC
- Conestoga Jr/Sr High School
- Plattsmouth Schools Health Services
- Child Advocacy Center
- Weeping Water School

The following results are based on those that responded, with full knowledge that a broader array of programs and services may be available to youth in Cass County.

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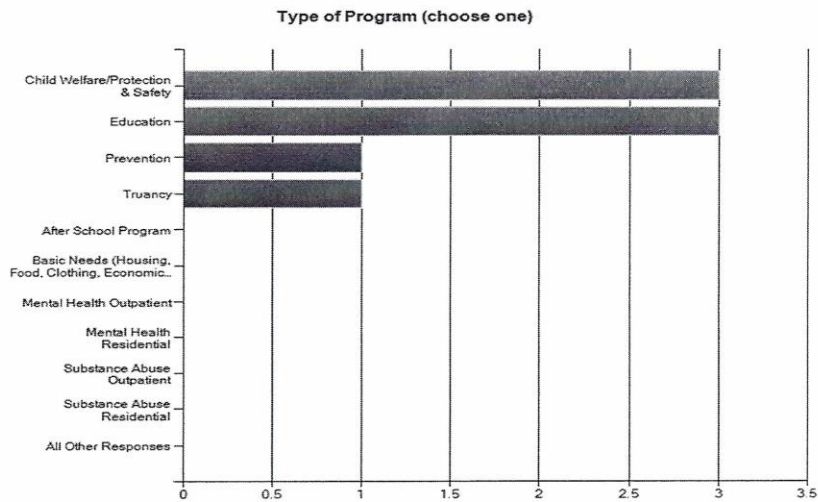
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## Survey Findings

The survey asked the respondents to identify themselves by type of program. The choices were as follows:

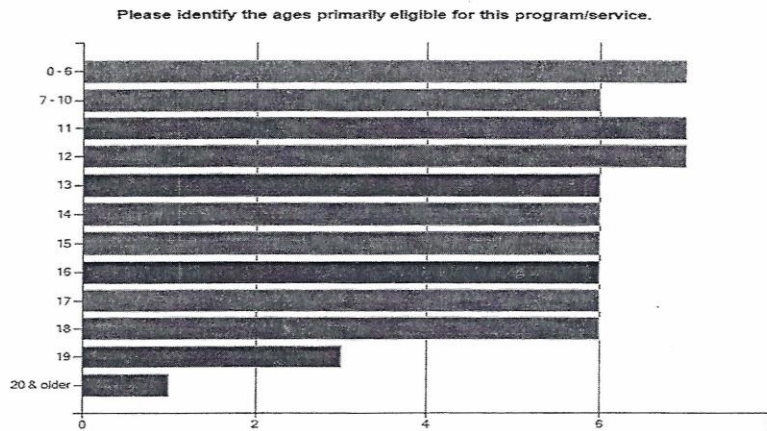
After School Program	Legal Services
Basic Needs	Parenting
Behavioral Health	Prevention
Child Welfare	Residential
Community Service	Domestic Violence
Culture Specific	Mentoring
Early Education	Truancy
Education	Job Skills
Employment & Job Skills	Gender Specific
Juvenile Justice	Mediation

The following table shows the distribution of survey respondents by Type of Program.

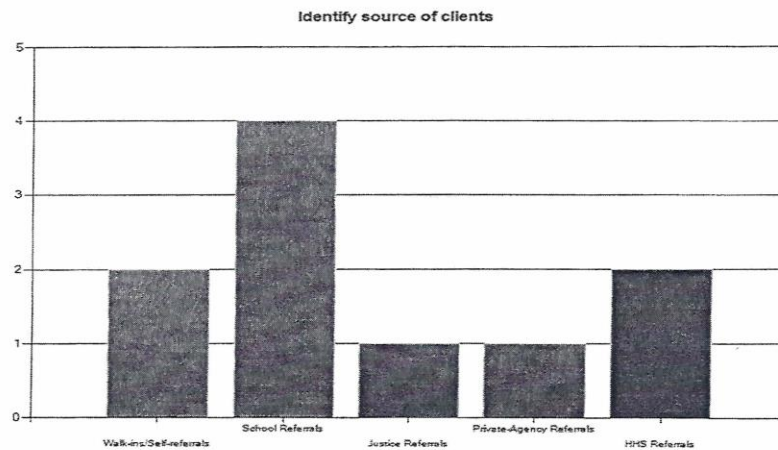


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The table above indicates the Ages Primarily Eligible for the Programs/Services in Cass County. In addition, 3 programs reported serving the Non-Hispanic population, while the rest reported serving both Non-Hispanic and Hispanic. 1 program serve females; the rest serve males and females. In terms of Source of Clients, School Referrals is where most respondents get their referrals from, as this table indicates.



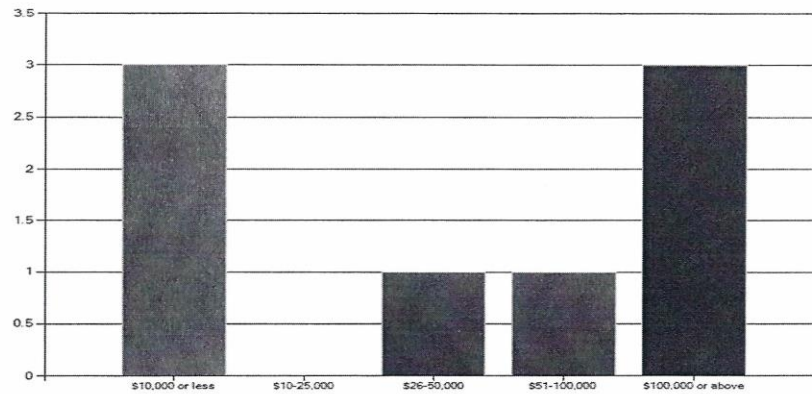
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## Cass County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan 2012 – 2015

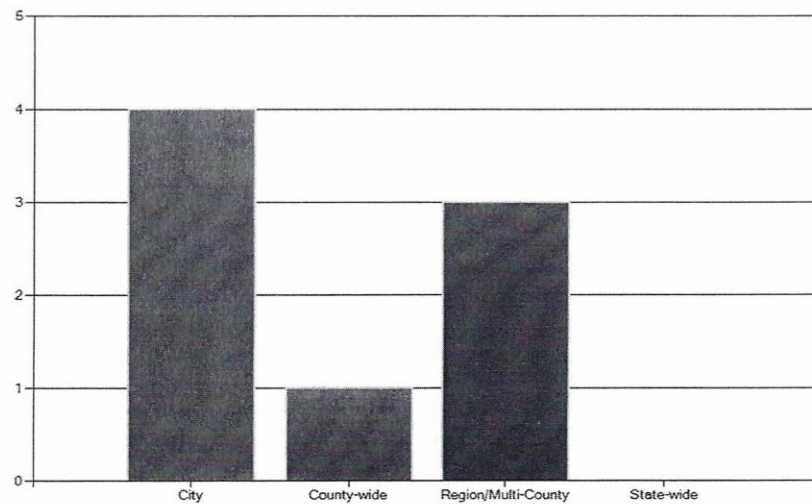
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Respondents were asked to select the estimated annual budget of their program or service. They were also asked to indicate the approximate size of their primary service area, where they receive one-third or more of the funding for their program or service, and the number of youth served per year. The following 4 tables indicate the response for those questions.

Please select the approximate annual budget of your program/service.



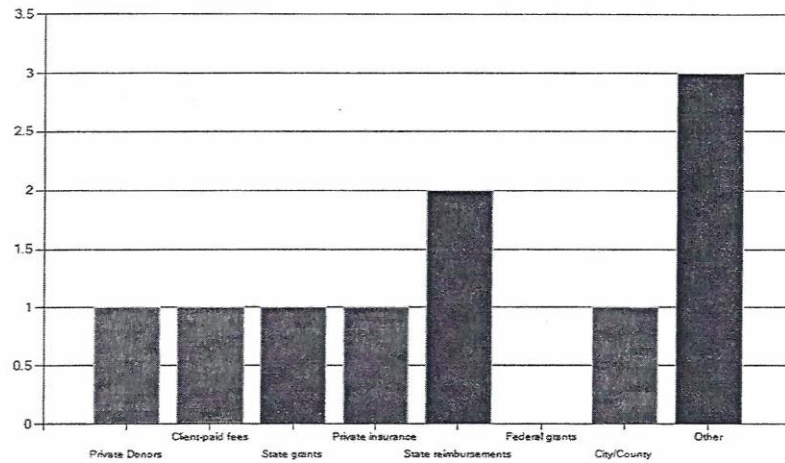
Identify approximate size of primary service area.



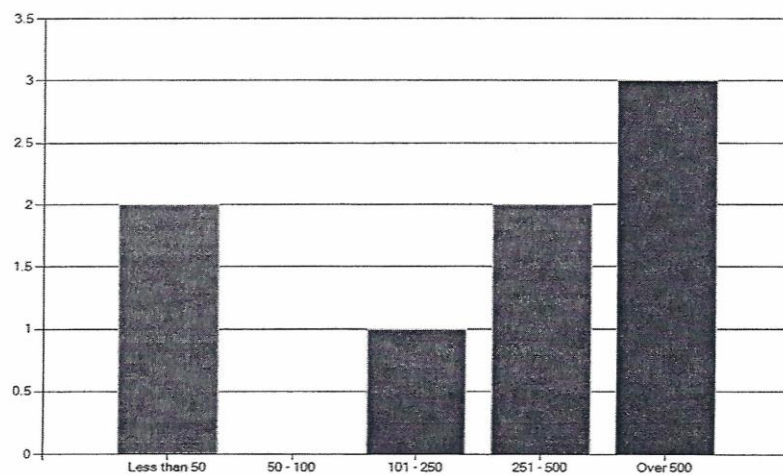
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Which of the following provides one third or more of the funding for your program/service? (check up to 3 boxes)



How many youth does your program/service serve per year?



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### Developmental Assets Cultivated

"The Developmental Assets are 40 common-sense, positive experiences and qualities that help influence choices young people make and help them become caring, responsible adults. Grounded in extensive research in youth development, resiliency, and prevention, the Developmental Assets represent the relationships, opportunities, and personal qualities that young people need to avoid risks and to thrive. Because of its basis in research and its proven effectiveness, the Developmental Assets framework has become the single most widely used approach to positive youth development in the United States". (www.search-institute.org, 2009)

The CCI asked each program/service to select the Assets that it cultivates among youth. These are the 40 Developmental Assets:

#### External Factors

1. FAMILY SUPPORT—Family life provides high levels of love and support.
2. POSITIVE FAMILY COMMUNICATION—Young person and her or his parent(s) communicate positively, and young person is willing to seek advice and counsel from parents.
3. OTHER ADULT RELATIONSHIPS—Young person receives support from three or more nonparent adults.
4. CARING NEIGHBORHOOD—Young person experiences caring neighbors.
5. CARING SCHOOL CLIMATE—School provides a caring, encouraging environment.
6. PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN SCHOOLING—Parent(s) are actively involved in helping young person succeed in school.
7. COMMUNITY VALUES YOUTH—Young person perceives that adults in the community value youth.
8. YOUTH AS RESOURCES—Young people are given useful roles in the community.
9. SERVICE TO OTHERS—Young person serves in the community one hour or more per week.
10. SAFETY—Young person feels safe at home, school, and in the neighborhood.
11. FAMILY BOUNDARIES—Family has clear rules and consequences and monitors the young person's whereabouts.
12. SCHOOL BOUNDARIES—School provides clear rules and consequences.
13. NEIGHBORHOOD BOUNDARIES—Neighbors take responsibility for monitoring young people's behavior.
14. ADULT ROLE MODELS—Parent(s) and other adults model positive, responsible behavior.
15. POSITIVE PEER INFLUENCE—Young person's best friends model responsible behavior.
16. HIGH EXPECTATIONS—Both parent(s) and teachers encourage the young person to do well.
17. CREATIVE ACTIVITIES—Young person spends three or more hours per week in lessons or practice in music, theater, or other arts.
18. YOUTH PROGRAMS—Young person spends three or more hours per week in sports, clubs, or organizations at school and/or in the community.



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- 19. RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY—Young person spends one or more hours per week in activities in a religious institution.
- 20. TIME AT HOME—Young person is out with friends “with nothing special to do” two or fewer nights per week.

### Internal Factors

- 21. ACHIEVEMENT MOTIVATION—Young person is motivated to do well in school.
- 22. SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT—Young person is actively engaged in learning.
- 23. HOMEWORK—Young person reports doing at least one hour of homework every school day.
- 24. BONDING TO SCHOOL—Young person cares about her or his school.
- 25. READING FOR PLEASURE—Young person reads for pleasure three or more hours per week.
- 26. CARING—Young person places high value on helping other people.
- 27. EQUALITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE—Young person places high value on promoting equality and reducing hunger and poverty.
- 28. INTEGRITY—Young person acts on convictions and stands up for her or his beliefs.
- 29. HONESTY—Young person “tells the truth even when it is not easy.”
- 30. RESPONSIBILITY—Young person accepts and takes personal responsibility.
- 31. RESTRAINT—Young person believes it is important not to be sexually active or to use alcohol or other drugs.
- 32. PLANNING AND DECISION MAKING—Young person knows how to plan ahead and make choices.
- 33. INTERPERSONAL COMPETENCE—Young person has empathy, sensitivity, and friendship skills.
- 34. CULTURAL COMPETENCE—Young person has knowledge of and comfort with people of different cultural/racial/ethnic backgrounds.
- 35. RESISTANCE SKILLS—Young person can resist negative peer pressure and dangerous situations.
- 36. PEACEFUL CONFLICT RESOLUTION—Young person seeks to resolve conflict nonviolently.
- 37. PERSONAL POWER—Young person feels he or she has control over “things that happen to me.”
- 38. SELF-ESTEEM—Young person reports having a high self-esteem.
- 39. SENSE OF PURPOSE—Young person reports that “my life has a purpose.”
- 40. POSITIVE VIEW OF PERSONAL FUTURE—Young person is optimistic about her or his personal future.

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According to the CCI findings, the *highest* identified Assets being cultivated among youth in Cass County's programs and services include the following:

8 programs selected:

#10 – SAFETY— Young person feels safe at home, school, and in the neighborhood.  
36 programs selected:

5 programs selected:

#5 – FAMILY SUPPORT—Family life provides high levels of love and support.

Zero programs identified the following Assets:

#4 – CARING NEIGHBORHOOD—Young person experiences caring neighbors.

#9 - SERVICE TO OTHERS—Young person serves in the community one hour or more per week.

#13 – NEIGHBORHOOD BOUNDARIES—Neighbors take responsibility for monitoring young people's behavior.

#19 - RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY—Young person spends one or more hours per week in activities in a religious institution.

#20 - TIME AT HOME—Young person is out with friends "with nothing special to do" two or fewer nights per week.

#34 - CULTURAL COMPETENCE—Young person has knowledge of and comfort with people of different cultural/racial/ethnic backgrounds.

### YLS/CMI Risk-Need Factors Addressed

"The Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory is a combined and integrated risk/needs assessment instrument for use with general populations of young offenders. The YLS/CMI has shown to be a reliable predictor of recidivism for young males and females, and to also predict the risk of future violent conduct by male youths. It is also increasingly being used to provide data about risk and need to help inform decisions about the design and delivery of services to young offenders". (Hoge & Andrews, 2008)

The CCI asked each program to identify the YLS/CMI factors that are being addressed by their particular program or service. These are the YLS/CMI factors, organized into subject matter categories:

#### FAMILY CIRCUMSTANCES/PARENTING

Inadequate supervision  
Difficulty controlling behavior  
Inconsistent parenting  
Inappropriate discipline

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Poor relations with parent(s)  
EDUCATION/EMPLOYMENT  
Disruptive behavior at school  
Low achievement  
Problems with peers/teachers  
Truancy  
Unemployed  
Not seeking employment

PEER RELATIONS  
Some delinquent acquaintances/friends  
Negative peer interactions  
Lack of positive peers

SUBSTANCE ABUSE  
Occasional drug use  
Chronic drug/alcohol use  
Substance abuse interferes with life and/or linked to offense(s)

LEISURE/RECREATION  
Limited organizational activities  
Could make better use of time  
No personal interests

PERSONALITY/BEHAVIOR  
Inflated self-esteem  
Physically aggressive  
Tantrums  
Short attention span  
Poor frustration tolerance  
Inadequate guilt feelings  
Verbally aggressive/impudent

ATTITUDES/ORIENTATION  
Antisocial and/or procriminal attitudes  
Not seeking help  
Actively rejecting help  
Defies authority  
Callous  
Little concern for others

According to the CCI findings, the *highest* identified YLS/CMI factors being addressed by Cass County's programs and services (with 4 programs each selecting such YLS/CMI factors) are:

- Poor Relations with Parent(s)

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- Problems with Peers/Teachers
- Negative Peer Interactions
- Substance Abuse Interferes with Life
- Physically Aggressive
- Short Attention Span
- Poor Frustration Tolerance
- Verbally Aggressive/Impudent
- Little Concern for Others

On the opposite end, the YLS/CMI factors with the *zero* of the responding programs/services addressing such are:

- Unemployed
- Not Seeking Employment

### Cass County Common Community Framework

Based on information in the Juvenile Justice System Points Analysis and the Community Capacity Inventory, establishing the Cass County community framework in which your juvenile justice system and juvenile services operate is realized. Considering these questions help frame the next steps:

What are we doing that is working that we want to do more of?

What are we doing that is working that we need to do less of?

What should we stop doing because it is not working or harmful?

What do we need to start doing that we are not doing at all?

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## Appendix C County Board of Commissioners

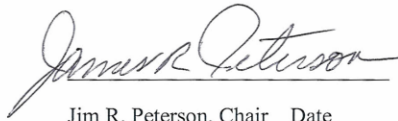
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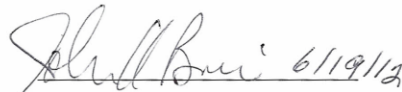
Appendix "C"

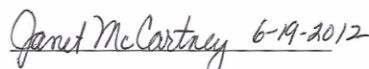
Cass County Board of Commissioner's Approval


The Chair of the Cass County Board of Commissioners, do hereby approve the Cass County Nebraska Juvenile Services Comprehensive Plan. The three year plan date is July 1, 2012 thru June 30, 2015.

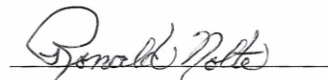
Signed:

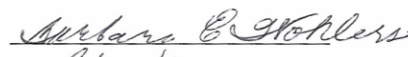
  
Jim R. Peterson, Chair      Date

 6/19/12  
John Baroni      Date

 6-19-2012  
Janet McCartney      Date

 6-19-12  
David Nielsen      Date

  
Ron Nolte      Date

  
Barbara E. Hokers  
Clerk